

Herald Tribune

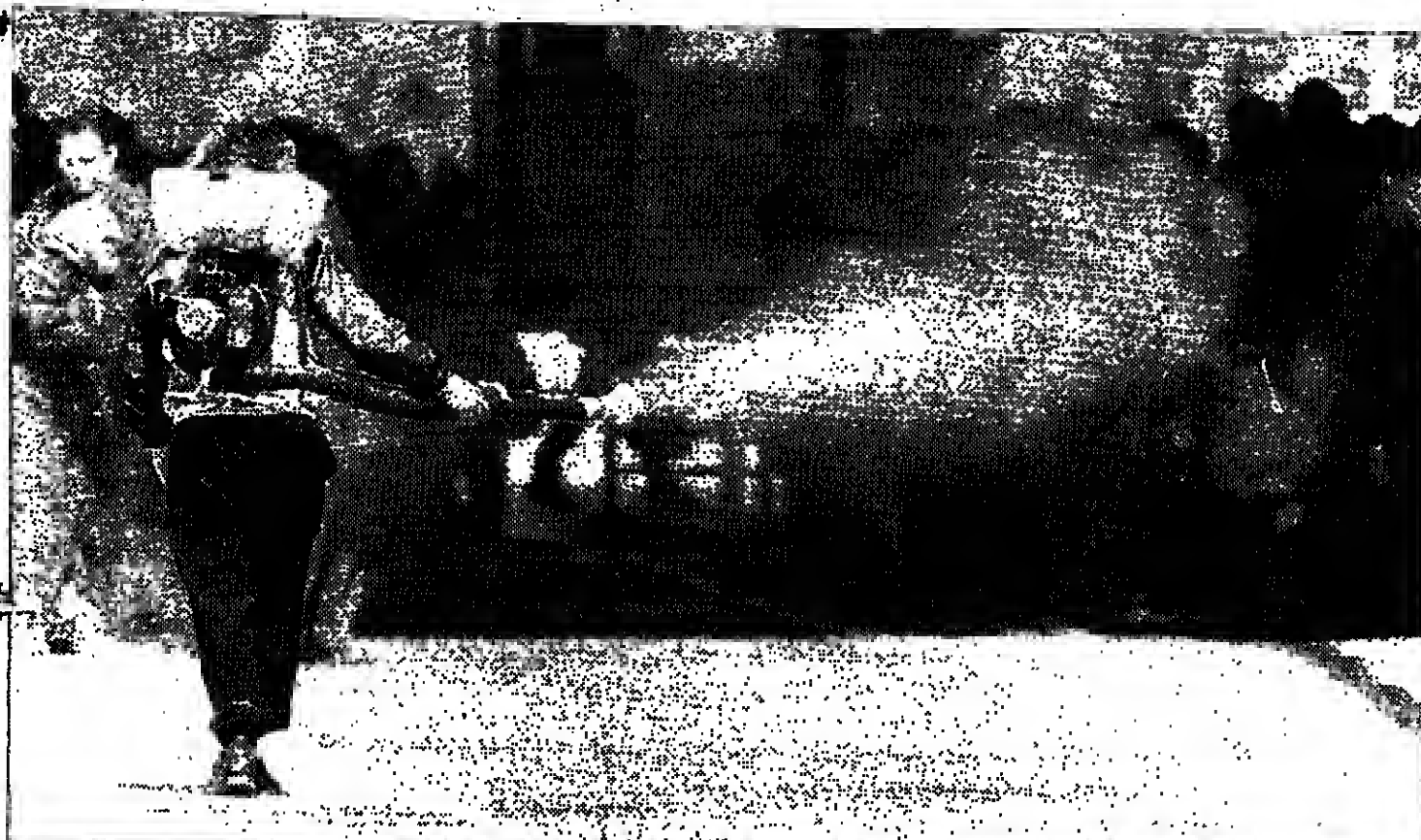
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The World's Daily Newspaper

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Paris, Wednesday, April 28, 1999

No. 36,127



A worker spraying disinfectants Tuesday on refugees from Kosovo at the border crossing near the village of Blace, Macedonia.

New Voice in Belgrade Broaches Idea of Peace

Clinton Authorizes Call-Up of 33,000

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

BELGRADE — A second senior Yugoslav official spoke optimistically Tuesday about the possibility of a negotiated settlement to the war over Kosovo, saying: "I believe that this will be the week in which the basic outline of an agreement on Kosovo can be signed up."

The official, Goran Matic, is a government minister from the Yugoslav United Left party of Mirjana Markovic, the influential wife of President Slobodan Milosevic.

He spoke as President Bill Clinton authorized the call-up of up to 33,000 National Guard and Reserve members to active duty to enable NATO to quicken the pace of its attacks.

Mr. Matic is closer to the ruling circles around Mr. Milosevic than the more liberal deputy prime minister, Vuk

Draskovic, who continued to press Tuesday for a compromise on a post-settlement United Nations-led peacekeeping force that would include representatives of NATO countries.

While Mr. Draskovic maintained that Mr. Milosevic would back his initiative, he conceded that he had not specifically discussed such a force with the president.

Mr. Matic said diplomacy, with Moscow's help, was advancing. A resolution could be reached as quickly as "both sides can bring elements of rationality to the problem," he said. "We'll give NATO their victory," he said. "They just have to decide what that really means."

Mr. Matic said that Yugoslavia, after more than a month of air strikes, would like to see the allied campaign stop. But not at any price, he said. "We have a national interest in this," he said. "But it's in America's interest as well, and at one point our interests will intersect."

While much remains to be done to bring the two sides together, he said, Yugoslavia would insist only on two things: "We won't give up Kosovo or allow armed troops into Kosovo. Everything else we'll give NATO for their victory."

But even on foreign troops, Mr. Matic was careful. "That is our official position," he said, but he conceded that any peace settlement would have to involve compromise.

Asked about some form of international protectorate for Kosovo, as the allies are proposing — an apparent retreat from its earlier acceptance of Kosovo as an integral part of Yugoslavia — Mr. Matic said flatly: "No one can sign an agreement that allows the secession of the territory."

On Sunday, Mr. Draskovic called on the government to speak realistically to the nation about the war and its costs and not to pretend that Yugoslavia could defeat NATO or be saved by Russian military aid.

He also pressed for a UN force to monitor any Kosovo agreement, but his proposal fell short of allied demands for an armed "international security force," with NATO troops in the lead for ethnic Albanian refugees to return home.

Belgrade also wants to keep larger numbers of its security forces in Kosovo than NATO is willing to allow, but most diplomats consider that subject to negotiation, too.

Mr. Draskovic also asserted that Yugoslavia was willing to allow international human-rights investigators access to Kosovo as part of a settlement, but Mr. Milosevic previously has refused such access outright.

2,100 U.S. Troops in First Stage of Mobilization

President Clinton on Tuesday authorized the Pentagon to order as many as 33,000 reservists to active duty for the



Mr. Talbot after he met with Viktor Chernomyrdin on Tuesday.

Moscow Tries To Negotiate A Settlement For Kosovo

By Michael Gordon
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — The U.S. deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbot, met with top Russian officials Tuesday to see whether Moscow could broker a solution to the Kosovo conflict.

The meetings signaled the emergence of a diplomatic process to bring an end to the fighting. But the allies and Belgrade remain far apart, and the negotiations are likely to be difficult and protracted, U.S. and Russian diplomats said.

"There is no question that Russia and the United States are working together on this problem," Mr. Talbot said after his meeting with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the former prime minister who is Moscow's special envoy on Kosovo. "The problem is extremely complicated. It is important that our urgent work continues, and it will continue in the days to come."

Facing an open-ended military conflict, NATO has begun to look to Moscow for ways out of the crisis in the Balkans. The welcome for Russia's diplomatic involvement stands in sharp contrast to 1991, when Washington looked on Russian efforts at shuttle diplomacy in the Gulf War as a meddlesome effort to protect Saddam Hussein from defeat.

Russia would gain much from negotiating a solution. NATO airstrikes have been a thorn in the side of President Boris Yeltsin, who has been determined to maintain a good working relationship with the West and fend off the critics who have demanded that Moscow give military support to Belgrade.

The trouble is that there is an enormous gulf between allied demands and the vague proposals that President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia is floating through his Russian intermediaries.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov of Russia said Monday night that Mr. Milosevic was ready to reduce his forces in Kosovo to the level they were at in October, before the Serbian military began preparing its offensive against ethnic Albanians in the province.

NATO estimates that Yugoslavia had about 22,500 military and interior-min-

See DIPLOMACY, Page 4

Europe and Japan Hear a Call for Help

Washington Warns It Can't Drive World's Economic Growth Indefinitely

By David E. Sanger
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The United States has told Germany and Japan that the world economy cannot run for long on only one engine: an American economy that keeps expanding as Europe slows and Tokyo prays that an eight-year recession is ending.

No sooner had the Group of Seven leading industrial nations issued their traditional communiqué Monday afternoon than the U.S. Treasury secretary, Robert Rubin, and his Japanese counterpart, Finance Minister Ki-

chi Miyazawa, began to interpret the deliberately vague wording about Japan's economic strategy in strikingly different terms.

The communiqué, agreed upon by all the nations well before the start of their meeting Monday, stated that Japan should implement stimulus measures until growth was restored, using all available tools to support strong growth led by domestic demand.

Mr. Miyazawa, a former prime minister and one of Tokyo's canniest politicians, said at a news conference here that the wording "has nothing to do with anything new."

It should not be read to suggest, he said, that

Japan was ready to take further steps to stimulate its economy. The International Monetary Fund has predicted that Japan's gross national product will shrink 1.4 percent this year, while the Japanese government officially insists that there will be modest growth.

But Mr. Rubin appeared to have a different view from that of Mr. Miyazawa. Speaking at the Treasury, he insisted that the communiqué committed Japan to continue to take important measures until "solid, domestic-demand-led

See GROWTH, Page 14

Japan Acts to Widen Role With U.S. Military

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

TOKYO — The lower house of Parliament on Tuesday passed crucial legislation to improve military cooperation with the United States, smoothing the way for Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's departure Thursday for a summit meeting with President Bill Clinton.

The United States has been pressing for the legislation, which would make it easier for Japan's military forces to cooperate with the United States in handling any security crisis in East Asia. Washington has been concerned that if a crisis were to erupt — a war with North Korea is the one most mentioned — then Japan

would wring its hands and manufacture body bags but do little else.

The new bills would allow Japan to do more to back up U.S. military action. Japan would be able to send ships to evacuate civilians abroad, to supply fuel and spare parts, to make airports and hospitals available to American forces and to conduct rear-area search-and-rescue operations for American troops.

Even with the new military guidelines that the bills carry out, however, Japanese forces would not fight alongside American troops, and there are doubts about how quickly and how fully Japan would respond in a crisis.

The guidelines are deliberately ambiguous about whether they apply to the Taiwan Strait,

and some Japanese officials admit that if there were a war over Taiwan they do not know whether Japan would risk the wrath of China by allowing the United States to use American bases in Japan to intervene on behalf of Taiwan.

[The Japanese vote drew criticism from China, which is concerned about how the guidelines might affect ties with Taiwan, regarded by Beijing as a renegade province. The Associated Press reported, "Japan has ignored the strong concerns of its neighbor countries, including China," said a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Sun Yuxi.

See JAPAN, Page 4

Many U.S. Teenagers Fear Repeat of School Violence

By Hanna Rosin
and Claudia Deane
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Many American teenagers believe a shooting rampage like the one last week in Littleton, Colorado, could happen at their school and say they know students who might be troubled enough to carry one out, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll of teenagers and parents.

The particular circumstances that in retrospect seem to have signaled trouble at Columbine High School — from disturbing behavior by some students to easy access to deadly weapons — are familiar to many of the teenagers and adults who were polled.

About a third of the teenagers have heard a student threaten to kill someone, and few of them reported the threats to a teacher or other adult. Four out of 10 say they know students troubled enough to be potential killers.

A fifth of the teenagers personally know someone who has brought a gun to school. About half are growing up in homes with guns, and more than half say it would be easy for them to lay their hands on one. Two in three say it would

be easy for them to get information on how to make a bomb.

While 40 percent of teenagers think their school has the potential for an incident similar to the one that resulted in 15 deaths at Columbine High School, fear is by no means pervasive, either among students or parents. Of the 500

Clinton calls for sweeping restrictions on the sale of guns, Page 3.

public and private high school students and 522 parents who were interviewed between April 22 and 25, more than 8 out of 10 said they felt relatively safe from school violence. The margin of error for the survey results is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

The simultaneous sense of security and fear is partly explained by the random and explosive nature of the series of recent school shootings.

Across the United States, the number

See TEENS, Page 3

AGENDA

Arafat Signals Delay on Statehood Call

GAZA (Reuters) — Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, gave a clear signal Tuesday that he would not declare an independent Palestinian state May 4 when peace deals with Israel expire. "We don't have to consecrate our state because we are already practicing

it on the ground," the official Palestinian news agency WAFA quoted Mr. Arafat as telling the Palestinian Central Council in Gaza.

Members of the council were meeting to decide the statehood question. Earlier article, Page 4.

China Protesters: Hard to Define

It was amazing how easily more than 10,000 followers of a religious sect materialized at the door of China's leadership and then vanished.

To the authorities, it can only be unsettling that so many people could walk up to the secretive compound where China's leaders live and work, and sit silently there for an entire day.

As followers of a sect of *qigong*, a traditional teaching that human energy can be directed to improve one's own health, to heal others and, when mastered, to achieve powers like flying, the protesters represent an amorphous and hard-to-control body that is confident and far-reaching. Page 6.



Mr. Arafat presiding at a school ceremony in Gaza on Tuesday.

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The IHT on-line www.ihl.com

You've Got Mail! As Divorce Sequels Show, You've Got Trouble!

By Maria Glod
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The words flowed without inhibition. In electronic mail he allegedly wrote to friends, even to strangers, the 37-year-old lawyer described his sexual trysts, gushed about his partners and agonized over cheating on his wife.

"Right now I am in New Orleans with a man," one message read. "My wife thinks I am here for work, but I'm not."

"I met him on-line. He is married, two kids," the e-mail said. "Italian, muscles like crazy, beautiful face and eyes."

"You must not print this, and delete all files!"

It's good to talk it out, but dangerous."

Dangerous is right. Copies of this and other e-mail messages have been filed at Fairfax County Circuit Court in Virginia, where the lawyer and his now former wife will be fighting for custody of their children. The ex-wife says she found the e-mail messages on computer disks stuffed into a drawer; the lawyer says the messages are forgeries.

Records of electronic communication, a growing factor in corporate cases such as the high-profile government antitrust suit against Microsoft Corp., have begun showing up in divorce and custody proceedings across the United States.

Electronic infidelity also has become an issue.

One Virginia man, according to court documents, learned that his wife was having "cybersex." Furthermore, she "engaged in chats wherein she has disparaged her husband and her children."

Some legal scholars say using the messages as a weapon raises questions of privacy and fairness.

"I think we need to look at e-mail as something that has to be protected," said Paul Levinson, a communications professor at Fordham University.

"Historically, the law has always been limping behind the technology."

For now, clients are marching into their lawyers' offices with printouts from their home computers. The search for e-mail, said one lawyer, Mama Tucker, is the modern equivalent of "looking

through the trash can for discarded notes."

And if the client does not broach the subject, the lawyer often does.

"I ask them, 'Is your spouse computer-literate?'" Mark Sandground, a lawyer, said. "You're going to say things to your e-mail that you wouldn't say to your priest in confession."

Glenn Lewis, who heads the domestic-relations section of the Virginia Bar Association, said that even the most sophisticated husbands and wives have let down their guard at the keyboard.

"There are people who wouldn't think about leaving an envelope open on their desk," he said.

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NDA

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U.S. Beef

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Spirited Away / Bogota's Vanishing Children

Disappearing From a 'Street of the Damned'

By Anthony Faiola
Washington Post Service

BOGOTA — Yulie Farfan Chacon's presents are neatly tucked next to her frayed teddy bears on the bed she last slept in on Feb. 20, 1996. Her single mother, Florinda Farfan, has bought one gift for each birthday and Christmas her daughter has missed since she was abducted one block from her home at the age of 11. Her mother wrapped each with bows and multicolored paper, for the moment when "my baby comes home."

Across the street in this poor corner of northwest Bogota, Norberto Garcia's hands shake as he pulls from his wallet a dog-eared photo of his daughter, Andrea Garcia Lopez, who was 14 when she was kidnapped on Nov. 27, 1995. Like Yulie Chacon, she is thought to have been abducted by an organized crime ring and sold into a life of prostitution abroad.

Like a nightmarish fairy tale in which young girls are spirited away by monsters, five were abducted from this three-block stretch of 125th Street in Bogota from November 1995 to July 1997. Not one has been found.

"You know, the neighbors are calling this place the 'Street of the Damned,'" said Mr. Garcia. "But I think it's more than just this street. What has happened to us in Colombia when five girls are kidnapped on the same street and nobody can do anything about it?"

The kidnappings on 125th Street underscore the horrific problem of abductions of minors in Colombia, where violence against children and teenagers has reached startling proportions in the 1990s. Overall, five people are kidnapped in Colombia each day, the highest rate in the world.

Children of wealthy families long have been targets of Colombia's Marxist guerrillas and criminals looking to fatten their wallets by holding hostages for ransom. But now, experts say, criminals have branched out into "lower-end" abductions, targeting children and teenagers from families of lesser means.

Sometimes, the children are nabbed by small-time thieves in an attempt to extort a few hundred dollars from poor families too frightened to go to the police — and unable to hire the private investigators often employed by rich families.

In 1998, Colombia experienced a record high of 1,844 kidnappings for ransom, with 120 of the victims under 18, according to Control Risks



Florinda Farfan with a photograph of her abducted daughter. She is demanding legislative action.

Group, a London-based firm that investigates kidnapping cases. That number is likely to be low, however, since most families do not report kidnappings, especially of children.

Besides those who kidnap for profit, Marxist guerrillas are targeting older teens from poor families for abduction and forced recruitment into their movements, experts say.

While authorities say they don't know what happened to the girls of 125th Street, anti-kidnapping activists say several of the cases are similar to others in which poor girls have been abducted and sent to brothels in Colombia and abroad. Because there is no request for ransom — in fact, the lives of relatives are often threatened for their attempts to find missing children — the cases do not go to the experienced anti-kidnapping department of the national police. Instead, these abductions are channeled into regular criminal divisions, where only 8 percent of reported crimes are even investigated, experts said.

"There is every indication to believe they were kidnapped for prostitution," said Viviana Esquerro Villamizar, communications director for Pais Libre, an anti-kidnapping group. "They were all pretty, young girls, and everything about the crimes indicate to us that they were sold into prostitution, probably somewhere in Europe."

Such crimes are among the most difficult to solve, authorities say. "The nature of the crimes makes it less likely to get the victims back," said General Rafael Pardo Cortes, head of the police's anti-kidnapping division. "For one, there is rarely any communication established with the abductors. They could have taken the minors anywhere."

There is also some suspicion that one or more of the 125th Street girls may be among the growing number of young sex-crime victims. In January, a mass grave of 20 children who had been abused and then murdered was found in Bogota. But in a country where only 1 percent of homicides result in prosecution in a country, and has a murder rate nine times that of the United States, there is little hope for justice.

The families on 125th Street have channeled their pain into an extraordinary will to fight for the rights of poor crime victims.

They have brought the issue of child abductions in particular to the forefront of Colombian consciousness, staging marches in the center of Bogota every few months and mounting a letter-writing campaign to everyone from local congressmen to United Nations officials.

As a result, the local police this past January put two full-time investigators on the cases. That is a ray of hope for mothers like Mrs. Farfan, 42, a cafeteria worker whose life has descended into unrelenting grief since the loss of her child. More than a year went by without a clue.

Then, one day in mid-1997, her sister got a desperate phone call from Yulie while Mrs. Farfan was at work. "She was crying, and she couldn't get out any information about where she was because someone there in the room with her hung up the phone," Mrs. Farfan said.

What does she think happened to her daughter, who would have turned 15 this week? "Oh God!" she sobbed. "They tell me she's been sold as a prostitute. No, no, not my baby!"

Later, she dismissed talk that Yulie may never return. "The police can stop looking, but it won't affect me. I will never give up hope. Never. My Yulie is coming home!"

Drumcree Challenges Irish Peace Agreement

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland — Wars often turn on who controls the high ground, and in Northern Ireland the battle between the province's two major religious groups has centered in recent troubled years on a rise on the outskirts of Portadown known as Drumcree.

This dull and drizzly Sunday morning, the Drumcree Church of the Ascension was filled to overflowing. Parishioners lustily sang forth their mission anthems, listened raptly to a sermon about the perils of dying without first dedicating their lives to Jesus Christ and then gathered outside for a ceremony.

Protestants are angry and defensive about Catholic advances.

The women, dressed in early spring shades of lilac and lavender, moved off to the sides of the rural lane that wound by the unadorned 18th-century stone nave with its tapered steeple and gently sloping cemetery ground. The men, in dark suits, put on black bowler hats, white gloves, and orange hilt-like collars and lined up behind Harold Gracey, worshipful district master of Portadown Loyal Orange Lodge No. 1.

Then they marched, stepping off smartly on a short journey of 100 yards down to where gray armored vans filled with Royal Ulster Constabulary officers in bulletproof vests and visored helmets waited, blocking their passage through the Roman Catholic housing project beyond. A pennant with a golden scroll reading, "Drumcree: Here We Stand. We Can Do No Other," was snapping in the wind.

A statement of protest, a prayer, the singing of "God Save the Queen," and the weekly confrontation was over. Sheep in the hillside pasture remained curled in sleep. The point, said Mr. Gracey, had been made: "We want the world to know we have not gone away."

Mr. Gracey, 62, has not left Drumcree since the Orange Order effort to march through the all-Catholic Garvaghy Road residential area ended last July in violence and humiliation for the Orangemen, known to one another as the Brethren.

They were urged by other Protestants to abandon their protest then.

Weapons, bombs and catapults had turned up in their ranks during the nightly barricade encounters with police, and three young Catholic boys had been burned to death in their beds by Protestant paramilitary fire-bombers in the town of Ballymoney.

But Mr. Gracey, David Jones, spokesman for the Portadown Orangemen, and others of the group refused to leave and have kept the vigil since then. They were dismissed for months as obstinate naysayers, but they are now being joined each Sunday by increasing numbers of backers and bolstered by "support Drumcree" rallies across the province and in militant Protestant communities in England and Scotland.

Their influence and the possibility that the Drumcree standoff will once again convulse the province in rioting grows with each day that negotiators in Belfast, Dublin and London fail to resolve a guerrilla disarmament impasse. The issue is blocking the formation of the new government for Northern Ireland envisioned in the peace settlement signed last April.

There is little sympathy in the order for

the peace settlement and much anger at David Trimble, the designated first minister of the new Northern Ireland Assembly and a Nobel Peace Prize winner, who represents this area in the British Parliament. Four years ago, Mr. Trimble led the march down the Garvaghy Road and danced a jig of victory with the Reverend Ian Paisley, a fierce opponent of the peace settlement, when the parade succeeded in penetrating police lines.

Portadown is known as the Orange Citadel because the order was founded near here in 1795. Local Catholics steer clear of the downtown area, and merchants on the main street complain that the town's reputation for sectarian exclusivity and conflict is discouraging business growth.

A rally for the Protestant cause in October became a fiery riot, and an officer of the Royal Ulster Constabulary was killed.

The Portadown Orangemen believe Mr. Trimble sold out the Protestant cause by agreeing to the peace plan, which seeks to balance the minority Catholics' desire for a closer relationship with Ireland with the Protestants' desire to remain part of Britain.

For centuries the Protestants made up nearly 70 percent of Northern Ireland's population and held all authority. But now, with their numbers reduced to under 53 percent, they are anxious about their declining power and angry and defensive about Catholic advances.

The Orange Order regularly tells Mr. Trimble these days that he is not welcome in Portadown, Mr. Paisley, by contrast, was the featured guest in a full-regalia Orange Order fire and drum march that paraded through the center of Portadown on Saturday.

Officials on all sides of the dispute warn darkly of the dangers of entering another "Marching Season" with the province's politics so uncertain. The simple word "Drumcree" now connotes for most people the moment each year when Northern Ireland is at its most volatile.

The 2,500 Protestant parades in Northern Ireland mark epochal moments like the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, when William of Orange, the Protestant King of England, overcame his Catholic rival, James II.

The argument in Portadown is over 10 blocks' worth of pavement that takes 15 minutes to walk, but its real dimensions emerge in the words of the debate — words like history, culture, heritage, faith, human rights, civil liberties and even ethnic cleansing.

The Orangemen refuse to meet with the residents of Garvaghy Road, who contend that the parade for them is a "triumphalist" celebration of Protestant domination and has no business coming through their community. In response to the snub, the residents have hung their neighborhood with signs saying, "No Talking, No Walking."

Working to forestall another Drumcree explosion, Prime Minister Tony Blair has met with leaders from both sides of the Portadown dispute at 10 Downing Street, and has assigned one of his closest aides, Jonathan Powell, to conduct talks. But there has been no reconciliation.

Before the church service, the block numbers outside the parish house where Mr. Gracey has been hilled were rehung on their hooks to record his 296th consecutive day on the hill. Thousands of Orangemen are expected here Thursday night at a rally to mark 300 days.

Tribal Chiefs Woored as South African Vote Nears

By Suzanne Daley
New York Times Service

TZANEEN, South Africa — Tony Leon, the head of South Africa's liberal Democratic Party, a man with the slight lockjaw accent of those educated at this country's best English-style boarding schools, came here recently to pay homage to Chief Samuel Mpuumula Mhulava II and to make his pitch to the Tsonga people nearby.

His campaign has rattled up the dirt road and stopped before the rundown meeting house where a group of traditional dancers with drums and sheepskin anklets were ready to greet him here, 360 kilometers (225 miles) northeast of Johannesburg.

Mr. Leon's speech was thick with deference to Chief Mhulava and skirted the issue of how one reconciles democracy with chieftainships, which are, after all, usually passed from father to son. South Africa, said Mr. Leon after he had removed his suit jacket and striped tie in the sweltering heat, needed to "carve a niche" for traditional leaders where they could continue to be "the voice of the people."

Mr. Leon is not the only South African politician rushing down unpaved roads to see the chiefs these days.

With little time left before the second post-apartheid elections on June 2, the newspapers are suddenly awash with pictures of politicians wearing beads and emphasizing the importance of protecting "the old ways."

For many chiefs, the sudden attention is more than welcome. Since the 1994 elections, traditional leaders — many installed and sustained by apartheid authorities because they did what they were told — have hovered at the margins of the new order, grumbling at their lack of official status, power and pay.

The ruling African National Congress continues to study what exactly its policy will be regarding the 700 traditional leaders. But it did decide last month, in time for the election, that they were entitled to hefty raises, pensions and medical benefits. They will all be paid about \$1,000 a month, a very good salary by South African standards and about twice what they were getting.

While their role in a democracy may be hard to figure out, there can be little doubt that the chiefs continue to hold enormous sway, doling out land, settling disputes and punishing those who break traditional law. They are no doubt capable of delivering hundreds of thousands of votes.

"Over the last four years, the government has basically tried to avoid the problem of traditional leaders," said Sean Jacobs, a political analyst with the

Institute for Democracy in South Africa, a nonprofit research group. "But now they are out talking to them, and it's all about the election."

The decision to raise the chiefs' salaries touched off protests from some of the opposition parties, including Mr. Leon's. "The DP finds this transparent move a dishonest ploy at taxpayers' expense," said Wessel Nel, a Democratic Party member who has a seat in Parliament.

Mr. Leon, however, did not bring this up with Chief Mhulava, who soon made it clear that he expected Mr. Leon to ensure that he and his subchiefs got their money. He also made it clear that he wanted some running water and electricity in the ramshackle settlement where his people live.

"Just now, if Tony Leon wants water, this is the last I have," the chief said, pointing to a pitcher beside the podium. "I had to go 10 kilometers for that. I pity you if you all be thirsty now."

Part of the reason for the intense focus

on the chiefs is that South Africa's newest party, the fast-growing, multiracial United Democratic Movement, has been wooing them for months. The party is led by Bantu Holomisa, who was thrown out of the African National Congress for insubordination, and Roelf Meyer, who was pushed out of the largely white-supported former National Party because of his reformist views.

Mr. Holomisa comes from the Eastern Cape Province, much of which is still under the control of Xhosa chiefs, and he is said to use his skills to win votes.

When polls began to show that Mr. Holomisa was making huge inroads in this area, ANC officials began to fight back.

A poll suggests that the Congress, which is expected to win the election but is pushing for a two-thirds majority, may have reclaimed some of its support.

In the last few months, both President Nelson Mandela and his deputy, Thabo Mbeki, who is virtually certain to become the next president, have visited

tribal leaders and attended showy ceremonies.

This month, Mr. Mandela once again married Graca Machel, the former first lady of Mozambique, whom he married at his Johannesburg home last year.

This time he went through a traditional ceremony in his own Eastern Cape village, Qunu.

Mrs. Machel, who is a lawyer and is active in children's rights, wore a traditional Xhosa outfit with face paint and underwent rituals to make her a full member of Mr. Mandela's Tembu clan.

The following weekend, Mr. Mandela and several other top ANC officials were present as Patekile Holomisa, a half brother of Bantu Holomisa and a member of the Congress, was installed as chief of the Gebe.

Mr. Mandela told the crowds that South Africa needed to marry its traditional authority and its newfound democracy if the country was to be successfully rebuilt.

"The government has demonstrated its faith in traditional leaders," Mr. Mandela said, "and acknowledged the role they could play in building a nation."

TRAVEL UPDATE

Bulkhead Crack Spurs Checks of Boeing 737s

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration is ordering airlines to perform a new round of inspections on the most widely used passenger jet in the world — the Boeing 737 — after cracks were found in the one of the plane's rear pressurization barrier.

The order calls for the inspection and correction of possible fatigue cracks in the aft pressure bulkhead, situated near the tail. The barrier, like one in the cockpit, allows the planes to pressurize to a safe breathing atmosphere. Left unattended, cracks could widen and trigger rapid depressurization of a plane.

The order stems from reports of fatigue cracks on the aft pressure bulkhead of some Boeing 737-200 models, older planes with cigar-shaped engines under the wings. Newer models have oval or round engine pods.

French Train Strike

PARIS (Reuters) — A strike by engineers was expected to disrupt slightly Paris commuter trains and regional rail traffic in northern and eastern France on Wednesday, the state rail company SNCF said Tuesday.

It said all high-speed services would run normally.

The stoppage, scheduled to last for a week, was called by a trade union to protest an agreement to cut the working week in line with government regulations. The union complained the accord would freeze wages, increase the number of part-time jobs and modify working and pension conditions.

In Nice, Air France ground staff voted to stay on strike for a 13th successive day Wednesday to protest plans to hand over part of baggage handling to subcontractors. Unions were due to talk with management and call another vote Wednesday on whether to stay on strike.

Tourists continued to return to Singapore in March, after the tourism industry showed the first signs of recovery from the regional economic crisis in February. Low air fares and cheap tourist packages helped the city-state receive 11.7 percent more visitors in March, compared with a year earlier, the Singapore Tourism Board said. (AP)

The chateau of Versailles and its museum will be closed to the public on May 4 because of an official ceremony, officials announced Tuesday. The chateau will reopen as usual the following day, the officials said. (AFP)

WEATHER

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe				North America				Asia				Africa				Latin America				Oceania			
City	High	Low	Wind	City	High	Low	Wind	City	High	Low	Wind	City	High	Low	Wind	City	High	Low	Wind	City	High	Low	Wind
Algeria	68	52	W 10	Amsterdam	58	48	W 10	Ankara	68	52	W 10	Agadez	88	72	W 10	Asuncion	88	72	W 10	Auckland	58	48	W 10
Antwerp	58	48	W 10	Athens	68	52	W 10	Beijing	68	52	W 10	Bamako	88	72	W 10	Buenos Aires	88	72	W 10	Brisbane	68	52	W 10
Athens	68	52	W 10	Bahia	68	52	W 10	Bombay	68	52	W 10	Blantyre	88	72	W 10	Caracas	88	72	W 10	Canberra	68	52	W 10
Bahia	68	52	W 10	Bangkok	68	52	W 10	Brazzaville	68	52	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Costa Rica	88	72	W 10	Darwin	68	52	W 10
Bangkok	68	52	W 10	Bombay	68	52	W 10	Conakry	68	52	W 10	Dakar	88	72	W 10	Guatemala	88	72	W 10	Delaware	68	52	W 10
Bombay	68	52	W 10	Brazzaville	68	52	W 10	Harare	68	52	W 10	Harare	88	72	W 10	Havana	88	72	W 10	Hamilton	68	52	W 10
Brazzaville	68	52	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Jakarta	68	52	W 10	Johannesburg	88	72	W 10	La Paz	88	72	W 10	Honolulu	68	52	W 10
Buenos Aires	88	72	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Kuala Lumpur	68	52	W 10	Khartoum	88	72	W 10	Lima	88	72	W 10	Los Angeles	68	52	W 10
Buenos Aires	88	72	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Manila	68	52	W 10	Khartoum	88	72	W 10	Lima	88	72	W 10	London	58	48	W 10
Buenos Aires	88	72	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Medan	68	52	W 10	Khartoum	88	72	W 10	Lima	88	72	W 10	Madrid	58	48	W 10
Buenos Aires	88	72	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Montevideo	68	52	W 10	Khartoum	88	72	W 10	Lima	88	72	W 10	Mexico City	88	72	W 10
Buenos Aires	88	72	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Nairobi	68	52	W 10	Khartoum	88	72	W 10	Lima	88	72	W 10	Moscow	58	48	W 10
Buenos Aires	88	72	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Perth	68	52	W 10	Khartoum	88	72	W 10	Lima	88	72	W 10	New York	58	48	W 10
Buenos Aires	88	72	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Rangoon	68	52	W 10	Khartoum	88	72	W 10	Lima	88	72	W 10	Oakland	58	48	W 10
Buenos Aires	88	72	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Seoul	68	52	W 10	Khartoum	88	72	W 10	Lima	88	72	W 10	Philadelphia	58	48	W 10
Buenos Aires	88	72	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Singapore	68	52	W 10	Khartoum	88	72	W 10	Lima	88	72	W 10	Portland	58	48	W 10
Buenos Aires	88	72	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Taipei	68	52	W 10	Khartoum	88	72	W 10	Lima	88	72	W 10	San Francisco	58	48	W 10
Buenos Aires	88	72	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Tokyo	68	52	W 10	Khartoum	88	72	W 10	Lima	88	72	W 10	Seattle	58	48	W 10
Buenos Aires	88	72	W 10	Chad	88	72	W 10	Yokohama	68	52	W 10	Khartoum	88	72	W 10	Lima	88	72	W 10	St. Louis	58	48	W 10

IT KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES.

VISA

THE AMERICAS

Clinton Calls for Crackdown on Sales of Guns and Explosives

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton, hoping public anguish over the massacre at a Colorado high school can be transformed into legislative change, called Tuesday for sweeping moves to restrict the sale of guns and explosives.

"I think this in the end is going to come down to what our conception of America as a community is, and what our responsibilities to one another are," Mr. Clinton said at the White House in announcing his proposal.

White House officials insisted that Mr. Clinton's package of proposals had been prepared before the deadly attack at a high school in Littleton, Colorado, last week, but acknowledged that the plan was likely to generate more attention because of the tragedy, which claimed 15 lives.

The president said his proposals would amount to no more than minor delays and minor hassles for sportsmen and legal gun owners.

"It's going to be a hassle for them. It's worth it. It's worth it. We're sorry — it's worth it," Mr.

Clinton said. "People's lives are at stake here."

Hillary Rodham Clinton, who took part in the announcement, said, "We come here to say simply that there are some tough things we must be willing to say and some tough steps we must be willing to take if we are to stop the violence."

The proposals include raising the minimum age for buying a handgun from 18 to 21, limiting the purchase of handguns to one a month, outlawing possession of semi-automatic assault rifles by juveniles, and barring imports of all high-capacity ammunition clips.

The proposal also calls for background checks on individuals wanting to buy explosives and a ban on convicted felons from purchasing black powder used in making pipe bombs. It also would expand the requirement for background checks on individuals buying arms to include gun shows, which are exempt from the law.

The explosives provision, which aims to treat the sale of explosives the same way gun sales are treated under the Brady Law, would cover dy-

namite, blasting caps and the like, not materials that can be blended into an explosive mixture. In Littleton, the student killers used homemade hand grenades and pipe bombs in their rampage through Columbine High School.

Mr. Clinton also proposed that all guns sold have mandatory child-safety locks and called for a lifetime ban on gun ownership for people who commit violent crimes as juveniles.

Some of the proposals have previously been made, including restoring the mandatory waiting period under the 1994 Brady Law, which also requires background checks of gun buyers.

The new waiting period would be three days, with authorities able to extend it for two more days in individual cases. It would apply to all gun purchases, as opposed to a five-day period that applied only to handgun purchases under the original Brady Law.

In 1998, the waiting period intended to allow for manual background checks was dropped and replaced with an automatic system of checking pur-

chasers of any kind of gun, although many states have their own waiting periods.

The House Republican leader, Dick Armey, said lawmakers "will examine what the president sends up and treat it with respect," but said of the change, "I am not convinced that that would solve the problem." The Senate Democratic leader, Tom Daschle, said he was unsure what benefits would be derived from additional restrictions, noting "we've got a lot of gun laws right now."

Meanwhile, radios and television fell silent across the Denver area at 11:21 A.M. Tuesday, one week to the minute after the eruption of gunfire at Columbine High School was first reported.

Church bells tolled 15 times, one for each person killed, including the gunmen. Earlier, authorities said the 18-year-old girlfriend of one of the gunmen, Dylan Klebold, had purchased at least two of the weapons used in the attack. The Denver Rocky Mountain News said the young woman, identified as Robyn Anderson, was believed to have bought two guns.

(Reuters, NYT, AP)

POLITICAL NOTES

Court Limits Scope Of Illegal-Gift Law

No. 36,128

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday made it harder to convict someone of giving an illegal gift to a federal official.

In its decision on a case that stemmed from the corruption investigation of former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, the court ruled unanimously that people cannot be convicted of giving an illegal gratuity unless prosecutors prove their gifts were linked to official acts.

The justices ruled against Donald Smeltz, an independent counsel, who had asked them to reinstate the conviction of a California agricultural cooperative on a charge of illegally giving gifts to Mr. Espy.

Federal law makes it a crime to give "anything of value" to a public official "for or because of any official act performed or to be performed."

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote for the court that the words "official act" appeared to require "that some particular act be identified and proved."

Reading the law more broadly would lead to "peculiar results," Mr. Scalia said. "It would criminalize, for example, token gifts to the president based on his official position and not linked to any identifiable act — such as the replica jerseys given by championship sports teams each year during ceremonial White House visits."

Sun-Diamond Growers of California, a raisin and nut cooperative, was convicted in 1996 of giving Mr. Espy \$5,900 in illegal gifts, including tickets to the U.S. Open tennis tournament, luggage, meals, a framed print and a crystal bowl. The conviction was thrown out on appeal last year.

Mr. Espy was acquitted in December of all charges involving gifts he had accepted from Sun-Diamond and others. (AP)

Away From Politics

• A lead cylinder containing radioactive material that would have killed anyone who opened it was missing for 10 days after being shipped from a high-technology company near Boston. The 200-pound (91-kilogram) package was found intact Monday at Stansted Airport near London. The Boston Globe reported Tuesday. (AP)

• Massachusetts researchers say they have cloned three goats that are genetically altered to produce a protein in their milk that might be used to treat heart attack and stroke victims. The cloning could mean less expensive production of the protein, antithrombin III, which is being tested on humans. (AP)

• Donald Newhouse, president of Advance Publications Inc. and of The Star-Ledger of Newark, New Jersey, has been re-elected chairman of the board of directors of The Associated Press. (AP)

TEENS: Most Fear Violence

Continued from Page 1

of students killed in violent incidents in schools has not increased, staying at about 55 each year over the past decade. There are more than 50 million students and 80,000 schools across the country, and the vast number of them will never experience the kind of tragedy that hit Littleton last week.

But in the past few years, the scope of the targets has changed dramatically in a way that makes more people feel like potential victims, said Ronald Stephens of the National School Safety Center.

"It used to be students would go after a specific person, an ex-girlfriend or someone who had disrespected them," Mr. Stephens said. "But now the shooters are much more heartless and callous. It's as though anyone in any general category can become a victim, someone who is simply in the way."

Mary Guillot, a high school student in Louisiana, said it was hard to imagine a shooting at her school. "But I feel like it could happen, because anybody at school can get a weapon and carry out their crazy idea."

Several students who were interviewed had no trouble describing their classmates who at any moment might "flip," as Nicka Brown, who goes to school in East St. Louis, Illinois, put it. In her school, it was the boy who taught himself Russian, roams the halls with a book on Hitler under his arms and told everyone the day after the Littleton shooting that he was going to blow up the school. The student was suspended the next day.

Others interviewed mentioned groups of students in black trench coats, like the ones the killers in Colorado wore, or "weird" kids wearing black lipsticks and dog collars, who "always" looked depressed.

One in five teenagers polled said they knew students they considered neo-Nazis or skinheads.

Some mentioned students who simply act strangely. Trisha Keen said that she and some fellow students were watching a news program about the Littleton shooting in between play rehearsals at a wealthy suburban school in southern Oklahoma. Just as the news cut to a scene of some grief-stricken girls, a boy walked into the room and started yelling. "Those people deserve to die. They deserve to die."



Governor Gray Davis of California displaying two semiautomatic handguns in Los Angeles while reaffirming his support for restoration of a state ban on military-style assault weapons. The TEC-DC9 model at left was among those used in the Littleton, Colorado, rampage.

The screamer was familiar to Miss Keen. He had once slammed a door in her face and twice pushed her. For a few months he had been pointing his index finger like a fake pistol at people's heads and telling them he would shoot them.

The drama students told the principal, who called the boy's parents to come escort him from school. Afterward, the principal had security guards search everyone's locker.

Miss Keen was relatively nonchalant about the incident. But her mother, Suzanne Keen, was more anxious. "All it takes is one unstable kid," she said. "And all we need now is for him to start doing a Colorado copycat thing."

The majority of students and parents polled were pleased with security measures their schools were taking to prevent violence, although half of all parents thought the schools should be doing more.

About half of both students and parents say their schools try to identify troubled students who may be prone to violence, conduct random searches of student lockers and have police officers or security guards on patrol.

Some of those interviewed said schools increased security either after a shooting incident or after hearing about a

tragedy like the one in Littleton.

After a student was shot by a classmate three years ago, Jeff Lazano's high school in a suburb of Atlanta installed security cameras and began automatically suspending any student who brought a gun to school, a no-tolerance policy that is increasingly popular across the country.

Skip Marburger's school in suburban Pennsylvania went into a near panic after Littleton. The school had planned a pep rally last Friday, and just to be safe, the principal had police and bomb-sniffing dogs scour the school. Runners then started spreading that five students had been caught with guns, and nervous students called their parents to take them home. Nervous parents then called the school and the pep rally was canceled.

Cindy Marburger, Skip's mother, wants to organize the parents into a volunteer security committee. "I don't feel like they take enough precautions," she said. "I just want them to be able to stop trouble ahead of time."

"This thing in Colorado was so well planned," Mrs. Marburger said. "I mean, I can't imagine anyone at his school would do something like that. But you can't take anything for granted any more."

U.S. Approves New Type Of Anti-Obesity Drug

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Until now, Americans looking for a pill to help them lose weight have had only one option: appetite suppressants. But that has changed. The Food and Drug Administration has approved the first in a new class of anti-obesity drugs that work by blocking the body's absorption of dietary fat, as opposed to tricking the brain into ignoring hunger.

The drug, orlistat, by Hoffman-LaRoche Inc., was approved Monday for seriously overweight people who meet the federal government's definition of obese — 30 percent overweight — and for people who are 20 percent overweight and have high blood pressure, high cholesterol or diabetes, conditions that are exacerbated by obesity. At 5 feet 5 inches (165 centimeters) tall, a person would weigh 180 pounds (82 kilograms) and 160 pounds, respectively, to fit those criteria.

But doctors will be able to prescribe orlistat for anyone, and experts said that the blue capsules, which will appear on U.S. pharmacy shelves in the next few weeks under the trade name Xenical, might soon become a familiar fixture in the medicine cabinets of Americans. The drug is recommended for use three times a day, for periods of a year or longer, and the company says it expects to charge around \$110 per capsule.

It is hard to overestimate the interest of Americans in losing weight, said Dr. David Williamson of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an epidemiologist who studies diabetes and who has written about the drug. "I predict a brisk trade in this drug."

Experts were quick to say that orlistat is hardly a panacea for obesity, and in clinical trials the drug helped obese people lose only modest amounts of weight. In one year of taking the drug, most patients experienced weight loss ranging from 5 percent to 10 percent of their initial body weight, the company said. And that was in combination with a reduced-calorie diet.

"This is not a magic bullet," said Dr. Eric Colman, the FDA medical officer who reviewed the drug. Although some weight-loss experts

said they were eager to begin prescribing orlistat, especially in combination with approved appetite suppressants, others criticized the agency's decision.

"I'm sorry this drug was approved," said Dr. Jules Hirsch, an obesity expert at Rockefeller University in New York.

Although the drug is on the market in 17 countries, and has been prescribed to 1 million people worldwide, an agency advisory panel of independent experts was divided last year on the question of whether the drug should be marketed in the United States.

"This drug caused a 4 percent difference in body weight between placebo and the drug itself," said Dr. Hirsch, who served on the panel and voted against approval. "That means a 200 pound person might lose 8 pounds."

In one experiment, reported in January in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, patients who took orlistat and followed a weight-loss diet for one year lost an average of 19.3 pounds, while those who followed the same diet and took a dummy pill lost 12.8 pounds.

In seven clinical trials involving more than 7,000 patients worldwide, those who took orlistat also showed "measurable improvements" in high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes, Hoffman-LaRoche said.

Orlistat works in the gastrointestinal tract, blocking an enzyme that is needed to digest fat. Instead of being digested, a third of the fat a person eats will accumulate in the intestines and be excreted in the stool. But by blocking fat absorption, the drug also blocks absorption of the fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E and K, as well as beta-carotene, and so patients must take daily vitamin supplements.

In addition, orlistat can cause unpleasant gastrointestinal side effects that discourage patients from eating fatty foods.

There are also fears about whether the drug might be linked to breast cancer. In data Hoffman-LaRoche submitted to the food and drug agency last year, women who took orlistat experienced slightly more breast cancer than those who did not. But an agency official said additional data submitted by the company had convinced the agency that the risk of breast cancer was "not a real concern."

E-MAIL: New Evidence for 'He Said, She Said'

Continued from Page 1

yet they leave a computer that has their love letters or pornography or chat-room talk."

At its headquarters in Dulles, Virginia, America Online Inc. is served with a steady stream of subpoenas for subscriber information, often for divorce cases. AOL, with 17 million customers by far the world's largest base of e-mailers, usually is able only to produce records showing how much time a customer spent on-line, a company spokesman said. But the company occasionally can recover the text of a message or chat-room exchange, said the spokesman, Rich D'Amato.

AOL officials said that they responded immediately to search warrants in criminal cases but wait 14 days in civil matters to give their customers time for a court challenge.

Spouses most often go after electronic records to prove infidelity or to show that their partner has emotional problems or is simply spending too much time on-line to be a good parent.

A 48-year-old Tennessee man asked for AOL records to bolster his claims that his spouse neglected their family. "The wife does not clean the house during the day," according to his complaint, "but rather spends her day shopping, visiting, meeting her paramours or on the computer."

Lawyers who use e-mail messages in court argue that such evidence is valuable because, unlike witness testimony, it gives a firsthand record of the writer's feelings. But as with most evidence presented in court, there is plenty of room for challenge. When spouses share a computer, messages can be written under the one another's names and existing files altered.

Besides checking files stored on a computer, some people monitor on-line activity through Internet search engines.

Eric Hester, 33, a mortgage banker from San Francisco who wanted more time with his sons, age 5 and 7, said he searched under his former wife's screen name for messages she had posted in chat rooms. He looked weekly for four or five months, he said.

Mr. Hester gave 30 pages of printouts, including one of a divorce-related discussion in which one of his sons participated, to the mediator in his custody case. The mediator did not change Mr. Hester's visiting rights but did require that his ex-wife, Jennifer Ferrall, no longer include the children in her chat-room sessions.

Ms. Ferrall, 32, said she used the chat rooms to help her through a difficult time and described her on-line conversations and her son's involvement as "totally innocent."

"One mom asked how you break the news to a 5-year-old that his mom and dad aren't going to be together anymore," she said. "I asked my son what he thought the most gentle way would be to say it, and I posted it."

Ms. Ferrall said she felt "sick" when she learned her

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In deep sorrow we announce the death of the Honorary Chairman of our Company

Dr.-Ing. Dr. rer. nat. h.c. Konrad Henkel

Recipient of the Grand Cross with Star

of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany and many other national and international awards

Honorary Citizen of the City of Düsseldorf

Deceased on April 24, 1999 at the age of 83.

Dr. Konrad Henkel, grandson of our Founder, shaped our Company's development for more than fifty years. The Henkel Group's growth into a broadly diversified global enterprise is due to his vision, his dynamic entrepreneurial spirit and his exemplary character and outstanding judgement. His personal sense of responsibility for the Company and its employees gained Dr. Konrad Henkel the affection, respect and loyalty of all those with whom he worked. He was motivated by a deep sense of civic duty and supported many public and charitable causes and institutions. He was especially devoted to his native city of Düsseldorf.

We mourn the loss of an outstanding entrepreneur of exceptional human qualities.

The worldwide Henkel Group will always be indebted to his vision and leadership. We will cherish Dr. Henkel's memory forever.

Shareholders' Committee, Supervisory Board, Management Board, Works Council and Staff of the

Henkel Group

40191 Düsseldorf

Henkel KGaA

Henkelstrasse 67

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Page 10

NDA

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Clinton has eased licy to allow food to be sold to Iran, n, officials said

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Page 5.
Pages 6-7.
Pages 16-19.
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INTERNATIONAL

PLO Leadership Likely To Delay Statehood Call

Arafat Convenes Talks for Decision on Date

The Associated Press

GAZA — Yasser Arafat convened the PLO leadership Tuesday to decide whether to declare a Palestinian state on May 4 or, the more likely choice, extend peace talks with Israel for another year.

An extension was proposed by President Bill Clinton in a letter to Mr. Arafat, and the Palestinian leader called the plan "more than positive." Mr. Arafat had initially pledged to declare statehood on May 4, the target date for a permanent peace accord with Israel.

The final decision on a statehood declaration is up to the 124-member Palestinian Central Council, a Palestine Liberation Organization body stacked with Arafat loyalists. Still, an Arafat adviser, Nabil Amr, predicted heated arguments and said it would be difficult to anticipate the outcome.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, more than 1,000 Palestinians, including members of Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement, marched through the streets demanding a statehood declaration May 4.

Dozens of demonstrators, their faces masked, fired shots into the air and hurled two Israeli flags and a wooden model of a Jewish settlement.

The council began its debate Tuesday at Mr. Arafat's seaside office in Gaza City, but it was not expected to reach a decision for several days or even until after Israel's May 17 election.

Mr. Arafat apparently is concerned that any Palestinian decision before the election would give campaign fodder to Israel's hard-line prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, who is trying to portray himself as the only candidate able to stand up to Palestinian demands.

Arafat's Worldwide Mission

Lee Hockstader of The Washington Post reported earlier from Ramallah on the West Bank.

Yasser Arafat has touched down in Canada and Kazakhstan, exchanged bows with the Japanese, engaged in bear hugs with Boris Yeltsin and joined in small talk with Nelson Mandela.

And in every one of the 23 or so countries that he has visited in the last month, his message has been the same: The Palestinians have every right to declare an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the stroke of midnight on May 4.

That date marks the end of a five-year period for implementing the Oslo peace agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians.

The terms of the agreement have not been realized, and Mr. Arafat has long said that without progress toward Palestinian independence, he would unilaterally declare statehood when the interim period expires.

But with the deadline fast approaching, no extra flags have been hung, no festivities are planned and no sense of history hangs in the air in the Palestinian-ruled territories.

Few believe Mr. Arafat will make good on his threat, and one seriously thinks Palestine has the basic aspects of a state, including control of its own borders.

Further, a declaration by Mr. Arafat could prompt Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel to make good on threats of his own: to declare the peace process dead, or to annex large swaths of the West Bank that Israel still controls.

Mr. Netanyahu, facing elections May 17 and eager to appear steadfast, is not in a position to compromise, diplomats and analysts agree.

So instead of declaring statehood, Mr. Arafat is engaged in what he does best—maneuvering his way out of a political problem that is partly of his own making.

His retreat is fraught with dangers, not only because it exposes the failures in the Middle East peace process, but also because it shines a light on the shortcomings of Mr. Arafat's five-year-old, self-rule administration.

Many Palestinians are deeply resentful that the autonomy they wanted for so long has brought corruption, mismanagement, favoritism and an abusive police and security apparatus.

Those aspects of Mr. Arafat's rule gall many Palestinians as much as the fact that Israeli domination continues, preventing them from traveling freely from one Palestinian town to another, or staying very far from home without submitting to Israeli military checkpoints.

"People want a tangible change from what we have now," said Marwan Kanafani, a Palestinian lawmaker, "not another sentimental or symbolic declaration."

Ahmed Korei, head of the Palestinian legislature and a top negotiator of the Oslo accord, has called for Mr. Arafat to disregard international opinion and declare a state on May 4.

"In the end, we don't want to lose our people's confidence," said Azmi Shuab, a lawmaker and member of the Central Council. "The image is that the Palestinian Authority and the president are not serious in achieving the goals that were promised in the peace process."

Through negotiations, Mr. Arafat's Palestinian Authority has managed to wrest partial control of 29 percent of the West Bank from Israel—a patchwork of hits of noncontiguous territory that hardly forms the basis of a state. Palestinian control was supposed to rise to 40 percent under the agreement brokered last fall by President Bill Clinton.

But Mr. Netanyahu, under intense pressure from his conservative political base, halted implementation of the accord and accused the Palestinians of failing to meet their end of the deal—to reduce the number of police, seize illegal weapons, stop anti-Israel incitement in the media and fight terrorism. Soon after that, his government fell and new elections were called, freezing the peace process.

Mr. Arafat is determined not to leave the question of statehood open-ended—a recipe, many Palestinians fear, for indefinite, stateless limbo. May 4, Mr. Arafat has said, is a "sacred date" that cannot be allowed to pass as just another day.



A Belgrade resident removing broken glass Tuesday near a building that was reported hit by a NATO missile.

DIPLOMACY: Allied List Is 'Nonnegotiable,' But Moscow Tries

Continued from Page 1

istry troops in Kosovo in October, compared with 40,000 now.

The alliance has insisted that Yugoslavia withdraw virtually all of its forces from Kosovo.

"The idea that those Serb military forces, police or paramilitary units who are responsible for the 'ethnic cleansing' and war crimes in Kosovo can stay is a non-starter," said James Rubin, the State Department spokesman.

The issue of an international presence to police a settlement is even more complicated.

"We started from a position where Belgrade refused to accept any foreign military presence, including a Russian one," Mr. Ivanov said. "After our official talks, Belgrade has officially confirmed its readiness to accept an international presence under the auspices of the United Nations."

"For now, this question has not gone any further," he said. "Talks are under way about its composition and other things, but this work is in progress."

Mr. Ivanov said that Russia was prepared to send peacekeeping troops but that it would be very difficult for Mr. Milosevic to accept a force that essentially was under NATO control.

"Put yourself in the place of Yugoslav leaders," he said. "Would you allow the same people who destroyed your country to carry out the peacekeeping operation?"

NATO has insisted that it play the lead role in any peacekeeping operation. The alliance has said that lightly-armed United Nations peacekeepers would not do.

"In the absence of a credible military presence, Kosovo refugees cannot come back," Mr. Rubin said, "and we are determined to create the conditions for them to come back. A force with NATO at its core will provide the magnet for them to return."

Thousands of British soldiers are assembling in Macedonia for the mission, and the British defense minister has said that it was just a matter of time before they were deployed.

A third issue cropped up in Mr. Talbot's talks: the final status of Kosovo.

According to diplomats in Moscow, Russian officials told Mr. Talbot that Moscow would not support the idea of an international protectorate for the province.

Allied leaders have been discussing a protectorate as an alternative to the Rambouillet agreement. British officials, in particular, have questioned whether Mr. Milosevic has any right to govern

Kosovo province after the Serbian assaults on ethnic Albanians in the province.

A variation would make Kosovo an "internationally protected area" that is nominally within Yugoslavia.

Moscow leaders told Mr. Talbot that they favored a different arrangement, in which Kosovo would be under international supervision for a limited period so that security could be established, the refugees returned and a new government elected. Though it would have autonomous status, the region would remain firmly part of Yugoslavia, however.

"With such wide differences, the crisis may not be ripe for solution. For all of its support for Belgrade, it is still unclear whether Russia has leverage over Mr.

Milosevic and whether it is prepared to use it.

Mr. Ivanov finessed the question of Russian influence, suggesting that NATO, as well as Belgrade, would have to bend. "We won't serve as a postman," he said. "We won't deliver NATO's ultimatums to Belgrade."

"That is not our mission. If there is an ultimatum from one side and then an ultimatum from the other side there is no maneuver for negotiation," Mr. Ivanov said. "There should be cooperation on both sides."

That argument is likely to be unpopular in many allied capitals, particularly London, where Prime Minister Tony Blair has described alliance demands as nonnegotiable.

KOSOVO: U.S. Call-Up Amid Peace Hints

Continued from Page 1

Kosovo conflict. Defense Secretary William Cohen will use the authority to call up 2,100 reservists in the first stage of the mobilization. It will be the first call-up of members of the National Guard and Reserve since the war began.

The first group is to report for active duty in conjunction with the sending of additional U.S. aircraft to Europe. The call-up will allow NATO to quicken the pace of its attacks, officials said.

The reserve call-up, which Defense Secretary William Cohen had predicted would take place a week ago, had been delayed while NATO worked out agreements with Hungary and other allied countries to open bases to some of the additional 300 strike and support aircraft requested by General Wesley Clark, the NATO commander, news services reported from Washington.

About 100 of the planes are to be refueling aircraft that will enable attacking planes to stay aloft for longer periods, reflecting General Clark's desire to increase the pace of air operations against Yugoslavia. The allied commander also asked for strike planes and aircraft that jam air-defense radars.

Defense Minister Janos Szabo of Hungary said on Tuesday that his country had agreed to serve as a base for 20 refueling planes. He said that 20 already had landed at Ferihegy Airport, on the outskirts of Budapest, and that the rest of the fleet would arrive within a week.

Mr. Szabo also said that NATO might want to base 50 to 70 warplanes in Hungary but that no official request had been made.

NATO struck at the heart of Mr. Milosevic's political base again Tuesday. Alliance missiles destroyed a TV transmitter on the building housing the headquarters of Mr. Milosevic's Socialist Party of Serbia, the second time in a week the allies have targeted the block.

At least five big explosions rocked Kosovo's provincial capital Pristina between 8:10 A.M. and 8:20 A.M., according to information circulated in London.

State-run Radio Belgrade said up to 13 missiles had struck around the central Serbian town of Kraljevo earlier Tuesday.

The humanitarian crisis was meanwhile growing by the hour.

As many as 3,000 refugees from Kosovo arrived at the main Macedonian border crossing of Blace as aid workers moved 2,500 more out of a transit area and tried to cram them into camps.

UN relief agencies estimate almost 600,000 ethnic Albanians have fled or been expelled from Kosovo since NATO launched its air campaign on March 24 to drive Yugoslav forces from the southern Serbian province.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross said Tuesday that one of its doctors had examined the three U.S. soldiers held captive in Belgrade and found them in satisfactory condition.

Suzanne Berger, a Red Cross spokeswoman, said that a two-person delegation had interviewed the three servicemen privately and would forward their messages to their families.

The three — Steve Gonzales, 22, of Huntsville, Texas; Andrew Ramirez, 24, of Los Angeles; and Christopher Stoebe, 25 of Smith Creek, Michigan — were captured March 31. (AP, Reuters)

Black Market Is Already Set To Circumvent Oil Embargo

By Youssef M. Ibrahim
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — NATO's planned oil embargo of Yugoslavia has already created a black market in which Serb-backed buyers pay up to a 50 percent premium for gasoline and other refined products, according to European petroleum traders and other sources.

Although the embargo is not expected to stop the flow of petroleum to Yugoslavia, it has greatly aggravated what already was a grave supply crisis. China, one of Yugoslavia's main providers of fuel and an opponent of NATO's campaign, recently terminated its oil contract with Yugoslavia because of \$195 million in delinquent bills. And because practically all of Yugoslavia's refineries have been bombed, it has no use for crude oil and must now import all fuel in refined condition.

Russia, which last year supplied 40 percent of Yugoslavia's oil needs, is its only major remaining source of petroleum, said Chris Kushli, an analyst with PlanEcon Inc., a Washington-based energy consulting firm that monitors Eastern European countries.

Unlike the Chinese, Mr. Kushli said, the Russians are willing to sell Yugoslavia oil even though the country has not paid \$170 million in overdue Russian bills. Traders reached in Europe Monday said Lukoil, one of the biggest Russian suppliers, had extended new lines of credit to Yugoslavia.

How much fuel the Russians will be able or willing to sell to Yugoslavia remains unclear.

But the embargo, which is expected to be enforced starting this week, means that deliveries by sea could stop.

"I think the biggest volume of smuggled oil will come over land," said Milan Vego, a former Yugoslav naval officer who is a professor in the operations department of the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Air power is good for some things, but surveillance of smugglers operating at night is not one of them," he said in a telephone interview.

A Geneva-based banker who extends credits to oil traders said he and other bankers had been contacted in recent days by wealthy Serbs, whom he declined to identify, who are opening let- ters of credit to finance purchases of petroleum products.

Traders in Europe said that smuggled petroleum cargo can change hands many times during the course of shipment so it would be difficult to tell where the cargo originated. But they said some of it could easily come from refineries in countries that have pledged to honor the embargo, including the United States.

Some traders said they had already seen evidence that buyers acting on behalf of Yugoslavia were purchasing refined petroleum at prices 20 percent to 50 percent higher than the market price.

"Anytime you have an embargo, you have a lucrative business," said the president of a middle-sized oil trading firm in London that until last week was involved in selling to Yugoslavia. "All you can do is make it expensive to get the stuff."

This executive, who did not want to be identified because of the sensitivity of the subject, said, "There are a lot of Yugoslavs among traders who have been doing this for a long time, and they are everywhere in Europe. They are very good at it, particularly now that their mission is to get the oil at any cost."

Besides Russia, Yugoslavia has purchased oil from Croatia, Bulgaria, Libya and Romania. Yugoslavia had produced 20,000 barrels of oil a day at home, equivalent to a third of its daily consumption in normal times.

The NATO embargo was not a surprise to Yugoslavia, which had already taken measures to squirrel away supplies of refined petroleum for its tanks, armored vehicles and transportation system.

"Remember, the Serbs were among those who built many of Saddam Hussein's deepest underground bunkers and storage facilities," said another London-based oil-trading industry executive who has done extensive business with Yugoslavia.

By all accounts, Greece remains the weakest link in the NATO alliance. There is great sympathy for the Serb cause in Greece, which has one of the biggest tanker fleets in the world. Although the embargo could stop them from supplying Yugoslavia by sea, traders said, it was likely that at least some Greek vessels could be the conduits for smuggled oil that eventually makes it into Yugoslavia.

"I think it would be very difficult to supply them with enough oil to run the economy," said Andrew Avramides, an independent London-based oil consultant with extensive experience in the Balkan region. "But a small tanker here and a few trucks there will keep the army going if the will to fight can be maintained, which is a big if."

BRIEFLY

Venezuela's Leader To Add New Powers

CARACAS — President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela has signed a law, approved by Congress, granting him special decree powers to tackle the country's economic crisis.

"I just signed the enactment of the law," Mr. Chavez said Monday. It would be officially published Tuesday and a six-month period would follow when the government will start issuing a series of laws, he added.

The powers cover debt refinancing, civil service reforms, tax increases, and privatizations, particularly of the electricity sector.

The move came one day after Mr. Chavez woo a nationwide referendum approving a 131-member constituent assembly able to rewrite the constitution and grant the president sweeping powers.

The Venezuelan leader had clashed with Congress over the last few weeks, threatening to declare a nationwide state of emergency if lawmakers did not give him special powers to carry out tough economic reforms. (AFP)

Bogota Won't Meet Demands of Rebels

BOGOTA — Colombia has said it would not meet any demands issued by Marxist rebels for their release of more than 30 hostages, who were seized when the rebels hijacked a commercial airliner two weeks ago.

"The only possible response is the liberation of all occupants of the plane who are still being held as your hostages, without any sort of deals or demands," the government of President Andres Pastrana said in a statement Monday night.

The statement came hours after a communiqué from the Cuban-inspired National Liberation Army, Colombia's second-largest guerrilla army, in which it said it was preparing to free more of the passengers and crew seized during the hijacking and was preparing to issue a proposal to end the country's long-running war.

The rebel group has been holding 32 passengers and crew, including an American, in a swamp and jungle region in northern Bolivar Province. (Reuters)

Iraqi Official Expects 'Aggression' by U.S.

BAGHDAD — Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan of Iraq said Tuesday that he expected a new "American aggression" aimed at Baghdad. "We expect the United States to launch a surprise military operation at any moment," Mr. Ramadan said, according to the official news agency, INA.

"The American military aggression against Iraq will continue as long as Iraq refuses to conform to Washington's resolutions and demands a lifting of the embargo," the official said. (AFP)

Bouteflika Sworn In As Algerian President

ALGIERS — Abdelaziz Bouteflika formally took over on Tuesday as Algeria's new president in a ceremony boycotted by opposition groups, which charge that his election was rigged by the military.

Mr. Bouteflika, a former foreign minister, won a presidential election on April 15 after his foes pulled out of the election on the eve of the voting. (Reuters)

JAPAN: Parliament Acts to Widen Military Role With U.S.

Continued from Page 1

[Taiwan cautiously welcomed the new guidelines. "We're watching developments and are optimistic about success," said Cheng Shih-yu, a Defense Ministry spokesman.]

The three bills passed Tuesday are expected to become law after being passed by Japan's less-important upper house of Parliament, probably next month. They were submitted by the Japanese government to Parliament a year ago, but they have been controversial because they run into sensitive questions about whether they are compatible with

Japan's "peace constitution" imposed in the aftermath of World War II.

Although it was Washington that forced the peace constitution on Japan, in recent years the positions have been reversed. Many Japanese, particularly those on the left, are deeply pacifist and want to stay out of any military crisis, while many American officials would like to see Japan play a greater military role to ensure regional security.

Labor unions and peace groups held rallies near the Parliament building on Tuesday, denouncing the legislation and warning that it could make war more likely. China also criticized the bills,

saying that they could harm regional security.

Although Prime Minister Obuchi presumably is delighted that the bills passed in time to set a positive note for his visit to Washington, to achieve this he had to sacrifice some key elements.

In particular, Mr. Obuchi agreed to lay aside one of the essential parts of the bills — Japan's willingness to take part in ship inspections to enforce international sanctions — because it was controversial and was delaying passage of the other elements.

A separate bill on ship inspections will be worked out in the coming weeks.



An Albanian boy marching to entertain U.S. soldiers on a road near the Tirana air base on Tuesday.

Republicans Seek to Add Billions to Defense

By Tim Weiner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Republicans are preparing to add \$5 billion or more in Pentagon programs to President Bill Clinton's emergency request for \$6 billion in spending on the Balkans, key members of Congress say.

Seeking to make Mr. Clinton's performance as commander-in-chief a political issue in next year's elections, they have seized on Pentagon spending

as a hot issue. Mr. Clinton asked for \$5.1 billion to pay for military operations, and about \$900 million in other funds, most of which would help refugees from Kosovo.

But Republicans contend that the Pentagon faces other emergencies, such as the need for munitions and spare parts. Many also want to add a pay increase for Pentagon personnel to the emergency package.

The additional billions would come from surplus Social Security revenues,

which both parties have said should be sacrosanct.

The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, has said he wants a total package of no more than about \$11 billion, including a proposed military pay raise of more than 4 percent.

The senior Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, David Obey of Wisconsin, said the Republican effort to add funding for the Pentagon was "the opposite of patriotism."

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China's Hard-to-Define Protesters Came Out of Nowhere

By Seth Faison
New York Times Service

BEIJING — The most amazing thing about the well-organized protest that occurred here Sunday was the case with which more than 10,000 followers of a religious sect materialized at the door of China's leadership and then vanished.

To the authorities, who are nervous about any unsanctioned gathering, it can only be unsettling that so many people assembled without warning, essentially walking up to the secretive compound where China's leaders live and work, and sitting silently for an entire day.

Unlike student protesters who noisily thronged the streets of Beijing with colorful banners and pungent slogans 10 years ago, the demonstrators Sunday drew no attention to themselves and

attracted no notice until there were suddenly many thousands of them sitting quietly in one of the most politically sensitive locations in the nation.

They looked like ordinary people from different parts of China, which they were. Here lies a puzzle — and for China's leaders, the scariest thing about the protest.

As followers of a sect of qigong, a traditional Chinese teaching that human energy can be cultivated by yoga-like disciplines and directed to improve one's own health, to heal others and, when mastered, to achieve powers like flying, the protesters represent an amorphous and hard-to-control body that is deeply confident and far-reaching.

An overwhelming majority of Chinese believe in qigong to some ex-

tent, making it hard to know exactly who belongs to the sect called Buddhist Law, which carried out the protest.

Buddhist Law, led by a qigong master named Li Hongzhi, claims to have more than 100 million followers. Even if that is an exaggeration, the government's estimate of 70 million adherents represents a large group in a nation of 1.2 billion.

Throughout Chinese history, mysticism has played a critical role in times of political turmoil, attracting adherents confused by sudden changes in society and becoming explosively violent when the authorities act to suppress them.

Anyone who doubts the potential strength of such a sect need only have witnessed the protest Sunday, when the followers seemed to appear from nowhere, sitting immobile and silent on sidewalks in the heart of Beijing. Even if

efforts by many of them to direct mystical energy at the leadership compound fell short, their impressive organization left a significant imprint on Beijing.

Conducting a demonstration in this city is no easy trick.

Plainclothes police and informers are everywhere, keeping an eye out for any hint of organized protest. Even lone protesters who tried to unfurl banners on the street during a meeting of China's legislature last month were whisked away, usually within minutes.

Prime Minister Zhu Rongji met several representatives of the sect Sunday and directed government officials Monday to form a clear strategy to handle the group's complaints.

[On Tuesday, Chinese authorities agreed to listen to the grievances of the sect, Agence France-Presse reported.

["The government has never banned various qigong activities, so any controversy can be settled through normal channels," said a spokesman from the news office of the State Council, China's cabinet.]

A Low-Profile Leader

Joseph Kahn of The New York Times reported earlier from New York:

The leader and founder of Buddhist Law, Mr. Li, a 47-year-old native of Changchun in northeastern China who now calls New York home, keeps a low public profile even as his books, audio and video tapes and Web sites spread his message to tens of millions of people around the world.

Close associates say they do not know where he is now. They assert that he has no formal organization. Like a rebel leader on the run, he sometimes appears at conferences his followers sponsor in Asia, North America or Europe, but with little advance notice.

"We have no organization," said Yi Rong, an associate of Mr. Li's based in New York. "No one talks to him regularly except maybe his family."

"We had a research society in China once, but this has been abolished."

Despite that elusiveness, or maybe because of it, Mr. Li has become a guru of a movement that even by Chinese government estimates has more members than the Communist Party. Beijing puts the tally of followers in his mystical movement at 70 million. Its practitioners say they do not dispute those numbers. But they say they have no way of knowing for sure, in part because they have no central membership lists.

Amorphousness makes practical sense. The Communist Party suppresses unauthorized organizations of any kind, whether they explicitly oppose Communist rule or not.

The demonstration on Sunday in Beijing involved more than 10,000 followers. But Mr. Yi insisted that Mr. Li did not know about the demonstration beforehand. "I'm quite sure that he did not even know about it," he said, but he acknowledged that her certainty was tempered by her inability to contact Mr. Li or to pinpoint his whereabouts.

Mr. Li has fashioned a mind and body spiritual exercise program intended to allow adherents to live a moral life, remain free of disease and achieve enlightenment. In the early 1990s, people who follow Mr. Li said, he built up a network of students around China, featuring thousands at a time. Last year, under pressure from the government, he left China for the United States. Exile appeared to do nothing to limit his popularity in China, even as he spread his gospel to Americans and Europeans.

BRIEFLY

U.S. to Inspect Site in North Korea

GENEVA — Talks between North and South Korea, the United States and China wound up Tuesday with little sign of progress toward reducing tension on the Korean Peninsula and achieving a permanent peace.

But a senior U.S. official said that American inspectors would be given access in May to a underground nuclear site in North Korea suspected of being used to develop weapons.

The date and other access issues were discussed by U.S. and North Korean officials on the sidelines of the four-way peace talks, the official added.

Concluding the fifth round of four-nation talks, a joint statement read out by the U.S. special envoy, Charles Kartman, said that "serious differences in positions exist." A sixth round of talks is planned to begin in August. (AP, AFP)

China Executes Railroad Bombers

BEIJING — Two Chinese government officials, including a local justice chief, have been executed for bombing a rail line in northern China, a court official said Tuesday.

Li Hongxin, 41, director of the Xingtai County justice bureau in Hebei Province, and Wang Qinghu, 46, deputy section chief of the county archives bureau, were executed Friday, the official said. He declined to give further details.

The China Youth Daily said Mr. Li, a Communist Party member, was disgruntled because he had not been given enough authority and did not make money from helping to set up a mine.

Mr. Li reportedly asked a cousin and Mr. Wang to help him "get back at society."

No casualties were reported in the Jan. 20 bombing, but the blast disrupted traffic along a section of the rail line linking Beijing and the southern boomtown of Guangzhou. (Reuters)

Ex-Khmer Leader Implicates Others

PHNOM PENH — The former Khmer Rouge military chief, Ta Mok, has told investigators 20 to 30 of his former comrades were responsible for the group's 1970s reign of terror, a military court official said Tuesday.

Mr. Ta Mok is the only leader of the group to be charged and facing trial, but a military court prosecutor said others could be charged.

Mr. Ta Mok, captured in Cambodia on March 6, had denied being the power behind the 1975-79 regime when more than a million people were executed or died from overwork, starvation or other abuse. (Reuters)

U.S. Airmen Jailed For Japan Assault

TOKYO — A Japanese court has sentenced two U.S. Air Force servicemen to two years in prison for assaulting a Japanese man and trying to run him over with a car.

Senior Airman Anthony Udy, 25, and Airman Arthur Tuttle, 22 — both assigned to Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo — were found guilty of causing bodily injury to Yasutoshi Ishizuka, an official with Tokyo's Hachioji District Court said Tuesday. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

Officials at the court and the air base refused to release the men's hometowns. The men will serve their sentences in Japanese custody.

Airman Tuttle admitted hitting Mr. Ishizuka on the head with a flashlight, and both airmen said they hit the victim on the head and back, the court official said. (AP)

For the Record

Sabotage and dangerous cargo have been ruled out by Chinese investigators as possible causes of a Korean Air crash this month, which killed eight people. (Reuters)

Manila Shrugs at Protest Of Visit by Anwar's Wife

By Thomas Fuller
International Herald Tribune

KUALA LUMPUR — President Joseph Estrada of the Philippines on Tuesday ignored protests by Kuala Lumpur over a planned visit to Manila by the wife of the fiercest critic of Malaysia's president, saying the trip did not amount to "interference" in Malaysia's internal affairs.

Azizah Ismail, who is head of the opposition National Justice Party and whose husband, Ibrahim Anwar, was dismissed as Malaysia's deputy prime minister, is due to arrive in the Philippines on Wednesday for a three-day visit.

The trip has angered the Malaysian government, which on Monday summoned the Philippine ambassador to register its "unease."

Malaysia "views seriously" any country that gives Mr. Anwar's wife room to develop her political agenda, Malaysia's foreign minister, Hamid Al-Bar, said Monday, referring to Mrs. Azizah. "We regard this as an attempt to interfere in Malaysia's domestic politics, and we hope the Philippines will understand our stand."

Mr. Estrada, who has in the past criticized the way Kuala Lumpur handled Mr. Anwar's ouster from government and subsequent trial, rejected the Malaysian minister's claim.

"That is not interfering with the internal affairs of Malaysia," he said Tuesday in the Philippine resort town of Boracay. "Everybody is welcome here," he

said, adding: "We have to prove to them that we are a free country."

"Noninterference" in a neighbor's affairs has long been a mantra for Southeast Asian countries. But political scientists who have studied diplomatic relations in the region say Malaysia's claim is unusual.

"To allow the leader of a legally recognized political party to visit another country, and maybe even to meet with the leadership of that country, that's never been considered intervention," said John Funston, senior fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore.

Mrs. Azizah is planning to meet with Mr. Estrada during her trip, which is partly sponsored by a foundation run by the former Philippines president, Corason Aquino.

"I'm not doing anything wrong," Mrs. Azizah said Tuesday outside a courtroom where her husband pleaded not guilty to a charge of sodomy. "I'm actually enhancing bilateral relations."

Mr. Anwar was sentenced earlier this month to six years in prison on corruption charges. Since his dismissal from government last September by President Mahathir bin Mohamad, he has gone from being the country's heir apparent to the toughest critic of the government.

Mr. Anwar's trial date in the sodomy case will be determined sometime early next month, a judge ruled Tuesday. Government lawyers told the judge that four other sodomy charges and one additional



Azizah Ismail, right, wife of the imprisoned former deputy prime minister, leaving court in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday with their two children.

corruption charge were "suspended."

The former deputy prime minister has appealed his corruption conviction and said he would fight the sodomy charge, which he vehemently denies.

Mr. Anwar's dismissal and beating in custody last year sparked criticism across the region, especially among the most influential countries: Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

Sources close to the Malaysian government say Kuala Lumpur fears that Mrs. Azizah could help sway leaders in those countries and dilute Malaysia's influence within the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Before the onset of the country's political crisis, set off by Mr. Anwar's dismissal last year, Kuala Lumpur played a leading role in the regional association, known as ASEAN.

"I think the powers that be are afraid that this visit could spark off another

East Timorese to Decide Political Future on Aug. 8

UN-Sponsored Vote Could Lead to Independence

Compiled by Our Staff From Various Sources

NUSA DUA, Indonesia — A United Nations-sponsored vote that could lead to independence for East Timor has been scheduled for Aug. 8, President B.J. Habibie of Indonesia said Tuesday.

Mr. Habibie announced the date of the vote to be held in the former Portuguese colony with a population of 800,000 after holding talks with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia on the island of Bali.

The president said the voting would be supervised by a six-nation team and that police advisers appointed by the United Nations would help Indonesia's military maintain security.

He said the East Timorese would be allowed to determine their future "in peace and with honor."

The president added, "We will accept whatever they decide, whether it be integration or separation."

Since taking office last year after the fall of former President Suharto, Mr. Habibie has promoted democratic reforms.

The armed forces, criticized for backing violent pro-Jakarta militias in East Timor, said they would back the plan. "Next month the United Nations will send police to give assistance to the Indonesian police" for the voting, said the armed forces commander, General Wiranto.

Pro-independence activists, who believe they will win the vote overwhelmingly, welcomed the news. But they called for a full UN peacekeeping presence, saying some in the military had tried to stymie the vote by backing attacks by anti-independence militias.

A spokesman from the militias condemned the announcement and promised to maintain the fight to keep the territory part of Indonesia.

Mr. Suharto's forces invaded East Timor in 1975 and annexed it a year later.

The United Nations, which did not recognize the annexation, has been heavily involved in setting up the vote. UN representatives completed details with Indonesia and Portugal last week. Portugal is East Timor's former colonial ruler.

Under Indonesian rule, the territory has been wracked by guerrilla warfare and human-rights abuses.

In a policy reversal in January, Mr. Habibie said the province could become independent if a majority in East Timorese rejected an offer to become an autonomous state within Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation.

Violence has escalated in East Timor in recent months, raising fears that the ballot might be further delayed. It had been scheduled for July.

Dozens have been killed by the anti-independence militiamen who pro-in-

dependence groups say have been armed and trained by some in the Indonesian military.

Pro-independence guerrillas have struck back sporadically.

Mr. Habibie said six nations — Australia, Japan, the Philippines, Germany, Britain and the United States — would be invited to supervise the voting.

"They, and possibly other countries, would be asked to provide an unspecified number of police advisers to help Indonesia's army and police keep the peace before and during the vote."

The president did not say whether rival paramilitary groups would be forced to disarm.

Mr. Habibie said he would announce the result of the vote Aug. 29 at a meeting in Jakarta of the People's Consultative Assembly, Indonesia's highest legislative body.

Anti-independence groups were quick to condemn Mr. Habibie's decision to proceed with the ballot.

"It will never solve the conflict in East Timor," said Florencio Viera, a spokesman for the anti-independence forces. "East Timor with greater autonomy is our choice, and that's final," Mr. Viera said. "The East Timorese are blind when it comes to politics. It's impossible for them to choose. If the ballot is carried out, the winners will be proud, and the losers won't accept that."

David Ximenes of the National Council for Timorese Resistance hailed the announcement but said: "We need more than police advisers. We really need a peacekeeping force." (AP, Reuters)

Tussle Erupts in Indian House Over Date of the New Election

Agence France-Presse

NEW DELHI — One day after the dissolution of India's Parliament, a battle broke out Tuesday between the rival parties over possible election dates.

No sooner had President K.R. Narayanan dissolved the lower house of Parliament on Monday than the recommitments began, as party leaders sought to lay the blame for a third election in as many years on their rivals, and even supposed allies.

The Hindu nationalists, who led the coalition government that collapsed on April 17 after 13 months in power, want early polls in June, but the independent Election Commission has said it will have to wait until late July at the earliest.

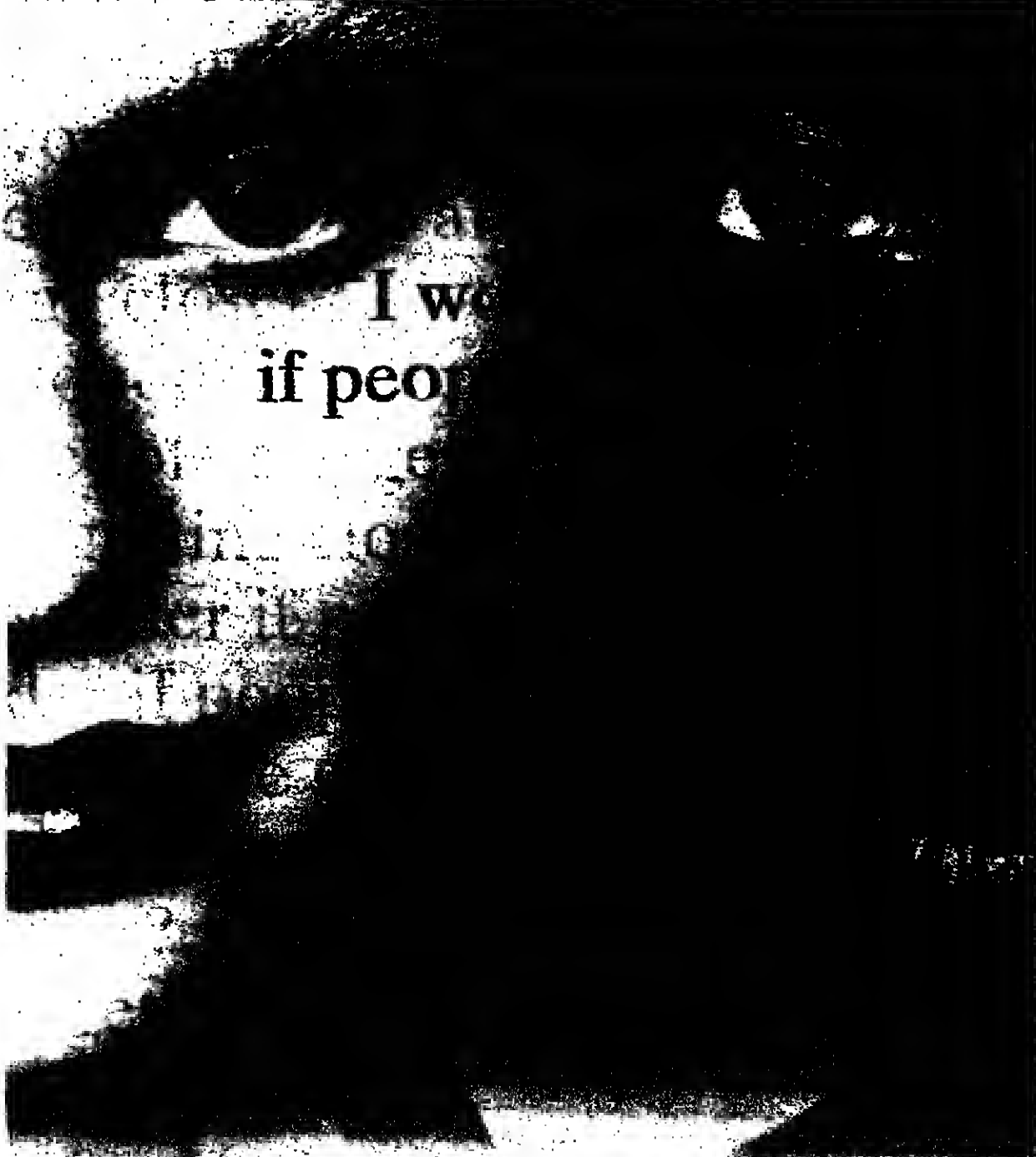
"The whole issue of election dates

should not be kept in a state of suspense as it will adversely affect the economy and the administration," said K.L. Sharma, vice president of outgoing Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party.

The party believes an early ballot will bring in a sympathy vote amid public disquiet at the way the opposition parties toppled Mr. Vajpayee's coalition by a single vote in Parliament and then failed to provide an alternative.

The Hindu nationalists moved quickly Tuesday to keep any embers of public resentment burning.

Setting the tone of the coming campaign, a Bharatiya Janata advertisement on Tuesday condemned the opposition leader Sonia Gandhi and her allies for foisting another election on the people.



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EUROPE

British Civil Courts Cease and Desist Using Obsolete Terms

By T.R. Reid
Washington Post Service

LONDON — Come now the deponent, guardian ad litem for the plaintiff in the action sub seeking a Mareva was quashed following in camera adjudication of the locus in quo.

That kind of language — rich in tradition, but much of it in Latin and almost impossible for litigants to understand — has been part and parcel of the British legal system for hundreds of years.

But this week, civil courts here issued a death sentence to antique terminology and switched their proceedings to plain English.

Fairly plain English, that is.

The new court rules — designating a "writ" as a "claim form," an "interrogatory" as a "request for information," an "ex parte hearing" as a "hearing without notice to the other side," a "guardian ad litem" as a "litigation friend" and

"in camera" as "in private" — will presumably help clients understand their lawyers.

But some of the changes may not add significantly to public comprehension. In Britain's new legal lexicon, the mystifying term "Calderbank offer" will be replaced with the equally mystifying "Part 36 offer." And the term "payment into court" will be replaced with "Part 36 payment," which is arguably more obscure.

These adjustments in the language of the law are part of an overall package of procedural changes that took effect Monday in the courts of England and Wales. The so-called "Big Bang" is the largest shake-up in the legal system in more than a century, according to Lord Irvine of Lairg, the lord chancellor — that is, the cabinet official responsible for courts and the legal profession.

"It has been obvious for some years that the legal system is too slow, too expensive and too complicated for most people to use," said Tanya Joseph, of the lord chancellor's office. "People

can't afford to go to court, and people who do get their day in court can't understand what the judges and lawyers are saying. So we've tried to make things cheaper, clearer and faster."

"Making changes is not easy, because we're dealing with 800 years of established practice," said John Lambert, a lawyer who has written a book explaining the new system. "And, of course, the solicitors don't like the changes because the new rules mean a lot of people can get their cases heard without hiring a solicitor."

A major cause of court backlogs is personal injury litigation — primarily, people suing over auto accidents. The new system is designed to speed those cases through litigation tracks.

The first is the equivalent of a small-claims process and involves such simple procedures that most people will not need a lawyer, Mr. Lambert said. To encourage litigants to try these cases themselves, no lawyers' fees will be awarded by the courts. In British courts, the losing side is

almost always required to pay court costs and lawyers' fees.

A second track — a simplified trial to be completed in a single day — will be available for claims up to about \$25,000.

For major civil cases involving larger claims, judges will be given more power to limit the time lawyers spend on discovery, deposition and trial.

The linguistic and procedural changes put into effect do not extend to the courts of Scotland or Northern Ireland, which have independent legal systems. And they do not extend to criminal courts — meaning, presumably, that defense lawyers in murder cases will still challenge the prosecution to produce a corpus delicti.

There is one relic that will continue unchanged. Judges and barristers will still wear black gowns and small white wigs on their heads.

"The wig? Oh, we wouldn't touch the wig," said a worker in the lord chancellor's office. "You can only take reform so far, you know."

Germany Tries Ex-Gestapo Agent

STUTTGART — A 79-year-old former Gestapo agent who confessed to shooting 500 people at a Nazi concentration camp went on trial in Germany on Tuesday.

Alfred Goetzfried is charged with assisting in the murders of 17,000 people, mostly Jews, at the Majdanek camp in Poland in 1943.

Mr. Goetzfried, who testified as a witness at several Nazi war-crimes trials in Russia and Britain, incriminated himself under questioning. But prosecutors said they could not charge him with murder because of a lack of evidence and his low rank in the command structure.

On Tuesday, Mr. Goetzfried denied the charges against him. He told the court he joined the German army in 1941 as a horse groom and was assigned to the police unit. A verdict is expected May 20. (AP)

Georgia Admitted To Rights Council

STRASBOURG — Georgia on Tuesday became the 41st member of the Council of Europe, the organization that promotes human rights and democracy.

President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia attended the Strasbourg ceremony, which included Georgia's signing of the European Human Rights Convention and an agreement on mutual assistance in criminal matters.

Georgia already has signed or ratified several Council of Europe conventions, including ones on corruption, promoting culture, mutual recognition of diplomas and the exchange of persons convicted of crimes. (AP)

Yeltsin Drops Aide

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin dismissed a deputy prime minister Tuesday and appointed the interior minister to the post, officials said.

Mr. Yeltsin, who frequently reshuffles the government, sacked Vadim Gustov and appointed Sergei Stepashin as first deputy prime minister, the Kremlin said. Mr. Stepashin will retain the interior minister's job.

Mr. Gustov, who was in charge of relations with provinces and former Soviet republics, long has been rumored to be on his way out. Mr. Stepashin is a staunch Yeltsin supporter who has occupied a number of senior government jobs. (AP)

Corsica Cleanup

PARIS — The French government said Tuesday that it was determined to clean up corruption in Corsica after three police officers, including the commander of the Corsican force, were implicated in a fire that destroyed a restaurant on the Mediterranean island.

Colonel Henri Mazeres, the commander, and two of his subordinates were arrested Monday night in connection with the fire last week.

Three members of a government squad sent to root out corruption in Corsica were inside the restaurant at the time. One was hospitalized with burns. The other two were placed under investigation. (AP)

Call to Arms By Yugoslavia Is Rejected In Montenegro

By William Booth
Washington Post Service

PODGORICA, Yugoslavia — What if they had a war and nobody showed up? That is what is happening here in Montenegro — Serbia's smaller, weaker partner in the Yugoslav federation — where an army of young men is refusing to answer the call to war issued by the Yugoslav military and the Belgrade regime of President Slobodan Milosevic.

There are thousands of them. In the last few weeks, most Yugoslav Army reservists in Montenegro, from cabinet ministers to cab drivers, have participated in massive resistance to a call-up by the Serb-dominated army.

Branded as traitors to Yugoslavia and facing the possibility of being hauled before a military tribunal and put into prison, these resisters have simply chosen not to put on their uniforms and be dragged into a conflict they are trying as hard as they can to avoid.

On the banks of the Moraca River, cold and green with the spring flood, a computer technician, Dragan Popovic, and his girlfriend sat embracing on a warm afternoon. "Why should I put on the uniform? This is not my war. This is the war of a madman," Mr. Popovic said, apparently referring to Mr. Milosevic.

While technically an equal partner in the Yugoslav federation, Montenegro has often been bullied by its more aggressive federal partner. Montenegro's government has declared that it is opposed both to the NATO bombing and the Milosevic regime, and over the past 15 months it has been slowly but steadily leaning toward the West. Many here think Montenegro will move to become an independent nation after the current crisis; meanwhile, NATO and U.S. officials have declared that it will be spared as much as possible from the alliance's air assault.

The Serb-controlled Yugoslav government has made repeated attempts to bring Montenegro into line, demanding that it declare a state of emergency, placing all of its resources — including police forces and fuel supplies — under the control of the Yugoslav 2nd Army, commanded by a Milosevic loyalist. The army has harassed and threatened with arrest journalists and government officials, while its leaders have attempted



Serbian police filmed this Kosovo refugee family as it crossed the frontier into Albania on April 2.

to usurp the power of the civilian police.

Of all Belgrade's demands, the greatest provocation has been the call for mass mobilization of thousands of reserve troops here — to which the overwhelming response has been, no thanks.

"I know thousands of young guys who are rejecting the call," said Dragan Soc, the Montenegro justice minister. While exact numbers are not known, Mr. Soc and others estimate that as many as 25,000 reserve troops may have been called to active duty but that only about one in 10 answered the knock at the door.

Mr. Soc, who holds the rank of private in the army reserve, is a case in point. "They came to my home, and my father told them he could not accept my orders. When they finally found me, I told them I cannot accept their papers, so they left them by the door."

Mr. Popovic, the computer technician, said of his encounter with the draft: "My mother told them I was not home. So they said, 'Okay, where is he?' My mother said that she did not know. 'Okay, when will he be home?' And she said, 'Two months.'"

With a population of about 630,000, Montenegro is too small and too vulnerable to confront the Milosevic regime

openly. And so Montenegrians have dodged and feigned, hoping to weary the Belgrade apparatus and buy time.

So far, the strategy has worked. But Monday there were reports that up to 1,500 troops loyal to Mr. Milosevic had entered Montenegro from Serbia to take up positions in three cities, including the port city of Bar on the Adriatic Sea. This worries Montenegro officials, who fear the troops in Bar might attempt to seize fuel depots at the port or fire at NATO warplanes or ships, potentially dragging Montenegro deeper into the conflict.

To refuse to serve in the Yugoslav Army exposes the young Montenegrian reservists to taunts that they are cowards and traitors by pro-Milosevic, pro-Serbian elements here.

One military pilot, who has not yet been called to duty, said that he felt deeply ambivalent about his role. He opposes the war and Mr. Milosevic, but he said he also wondered whether he could abandon his squadron if it is called to fight. "I would think that I would go to war to defend my friends," he said, "but this is not a rational thought. This is pure emotion."

Mr. Soc, the justice minister, said he knew of only a handful of reservists who had been hauled before military tribunals, which seem to be trying to usurp the power of civilian courts and

authorities.

One of Belgrade's problems is that the Yugoslav Army has no prisons in Montenegro and the Montenegrian police have said they will not hold any military resisters in their jails. Mr. Soc has repeatedly stated that all reservists who refuse the call to arms will be granted amnesty.

The most high-profile cases have involved government officials, such as Mr. Soc. There are at least three cabinet ministers, one prominent journalist and many physicians and engineers who say they have been targeted by the Yugoslav Army for their refusal to appear for duty or for their outspoken stance against the war.

"I said the army should not be allowed to use Montenegro in its fight against NATO," said Novak Kilbarda, deputy prime minister of Montenegro. "I also told our guys not to obey the order to appear for duty."

For this, the military tribunal here demanded that Mr. Kilbarda appear before them. He has refused. But each night he sleeps at the Crna Gora Hotel with two policemen outside his door guarding him. Mr. Kilbarda himself feels relatively safe, but he understands the plight of less influential men who refuse to submit to the military call-up. "They are the real heroes," he said.

London Police Hunt for Clues In TV Slaying

Reuters

LONDON — The police Tuesday were considering assigning guards to members of a television program that helps track down criminals after the show's anchorwoman was shot in an execution-style slaying outside her home.

The police were examining the hundreds of cases that Jill Dando, the anchorwoman, had dealt with on "Crimestwatch UK" to see if she may have been killed by someone with a grudge against the program. The Times of London reported.

"She received one shot to the head at very close range from a 9mm semi-automatic weapon," Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell said.

He said the police were discussing with other members of the popular program whether its staff members should be offered protection.

"There was no recent report from Jill Dando expressing concern that she was being stalked," Mr. Campbell said. "At this stage we will look at every avenue. A whole range of matters will be looked at. Her private life will be one of the areas that will be explored."

Victim's Anti-Crime Efforts

Warren Hoge of The New York Times reported earlier from London:

Ms. Dando, 37, had been a host of the BBC's "Six O'Clock News" and a travel program as well as of "Crimestwatch UK," which has had success solving cases by reconstructing crimes on television and then enlisting the public in solving them by helping the police identify suspects.

Through her four-year association with the program, Ms. Dando had become closely identified with crime-fighting. Last year, she reported being stalked by an obsessive fan, but the police on Monday night discounted him as a suspect.

Neighbors found Ms. Dando covered in blood on the doorstep of her \$700,000 home on Gowan Avenue in Fulham in southwest London shortly before noon Monday. She had just arrived home by car when she was attacked.

Residents said they had seen a man dressed in a suit and carrying a mobile telephone rushing away from the house around the time of the shooting. Born in Weston-Super-Mare in southwest England, Ms. Dando joined her hometown newspaper and then worked in local radio and television. She came to London in 1988 and began working for the BBC.

Children, Lost in the Chaos, Wait for Their Parents

By David Rohde
New York Times Service

BRAZDA, Macedonia — Each time a busload of refugees rumbles into the dusty refugee camp here, Murat Begir, 14, scans the faces peering from the windows.

One day, when he heard his family name called over a bullhorn by an aid worker searching for a specific refugee, he scrambled out of his tent hoping that he might find his mother or father. Every day he tries to call home to Pristina, even though the line has been dead for days.

"I think they are trapped in Pristina," said Murat, a drawn and distracted look on his youthful face. "I think they can't get out now."

In the chaotic hours when ethnic Albanians were forced from their Kosovo homes, hundreds of parents and children lost track of one another.

Some of the children, who range from toddlers to teenagers, crossed the border here alone or with relatives. Others were separated when Macedonian police officers forced 50,000 Kosovo Albanians out of a makeshift refugee camp near the border three weeks ago.

Murat, who lives in a tent with his 25-year-old sister and her husband in the sprawling refugee camp of 27,000 in Brazda, last saw his father when he told him and his sister to leave home and take a train to Macedonia as word spread in Pristina that Yugoslav forces were ordering people to leave.

"My father said, 'You go, we'll catch up with you,'" Murat said. "We waited for three hours. They never came."

He managed to reach his parents at a neighbor's house a week ago, but has heard nothing since. Lost children have been a tragic by-product of many refugee crises. But the chaotic nature of the exodus from Kosovo, and a complicated international evacuation program have made efforts to reunite families particularly daunting.

Adding to the potential problem, 70 percent of the estimated 1.8 million ethnic Albanians in Kosovo were under 30.

Unlike Albania, Macedonia has been urging refugees to move on and calling for more to be evacuated to other countries. When Macedonian police rounded the 50,000 Kosovo refugees from the camp in the town of Blace, it further scattered



Ethnic Albanians leaving a border camp Tuesday, headed for camps in Macedonia.

families. Macedonian officials flew 2,000 refugees to Turkey, bused 15,000 to Albania and divided the rest among six camps here.

When the sun came up, Jehona Aliu, a 5-year-old girl, was found wandering alone in the remains of the camp. Aid workers have posted her photograph in the larger refugee camps in Macedonia and are trying to determine whether her parents were sent to Turkey or Albania.

Three weeks have passed, but Jehona's parents have not emerged.

British NATO soldiers at first cared for her, but she is now living with a refugee family in Macedonia. They are missing children of their own.

The International Committee of the Red Cross

says Murat and Jehona are two of 253 ethnic Albanian children in Macedonia refugee camps separated from their parents. But there are other children unaccounted for, because 776 parents have reported that their children are missing and are not on the Red Cross lists.

Of lost children aid workers know about, few have been completely abandoned and most are being cared for by relatives. The Red Cross is posting the names of children it has located on bulletin boards in the camps here, hoping parents or relatives will come forward. But with refugees here being evacuated to a dozen countries in Europe, it could prove difficult to find them quickly.

So far, though, only 54 children have been reunited with their parents through the efforts of the Red Cross and Save the Children.

Aid workers predict that parents and children are not likely to be reunited for weeks, possibly months, and that countless other relatives — siblings, aunts, uncles and grandparents — are also missing.

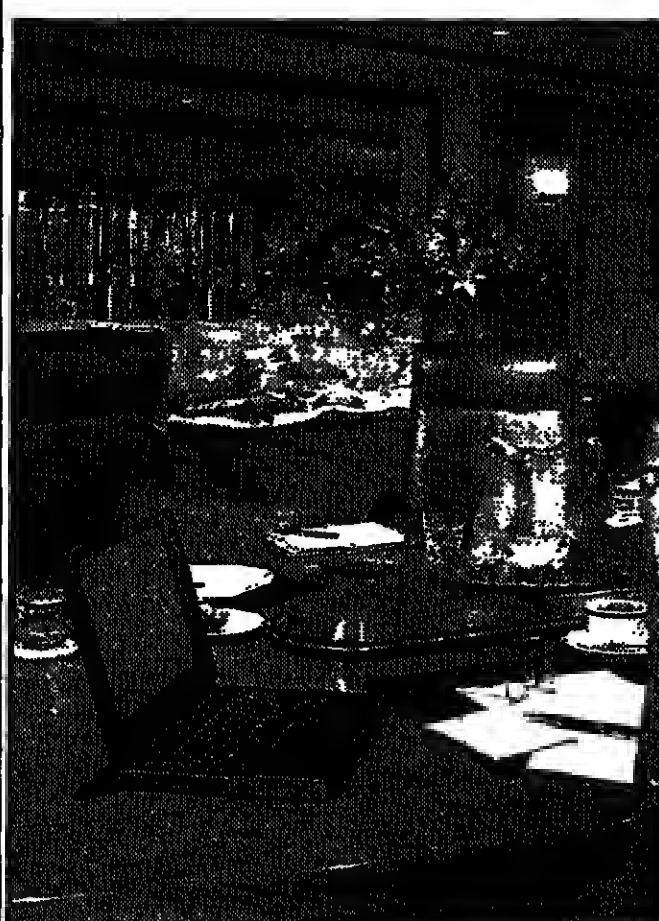
"I would say we are just dealing now with the tip of the iceberg," said Francois Zen-Ruffin, a Red Cross spokesman. "We're starting with children. They are the priority. But just about every single family is missing a relative."

Families started scattering even before the NATO air strikes. Many parents hustled their children out of larger towns and cities to the rural homes of relatives for safekeeping. But when Yugoslav forces launched a major offensive after the bombing began, hundreds of parents were blocked from retrieving their children.

Even families that began the flight from Kosovo together were sometimes separated. Panicked crowds swarmed aboard trains headed for the border and the Serbian police cut off convoys of cars, ordering some to the border, and others back into Kosovo.

Other parents said they were forcibly separated from their children. Hyzri Gaytani, 24, and his wife, Imrani, 20, said the Serbian police expelled them from their home in Pristina and then blocked them from going to the hospital where their premature baby was in an incubator.

"It's been 17 days," Mr. Gaytani said, holding his first, and only, child's birth certificate. "We don't know where he is." Phone calls to the doctor in Pristina have not been answered.



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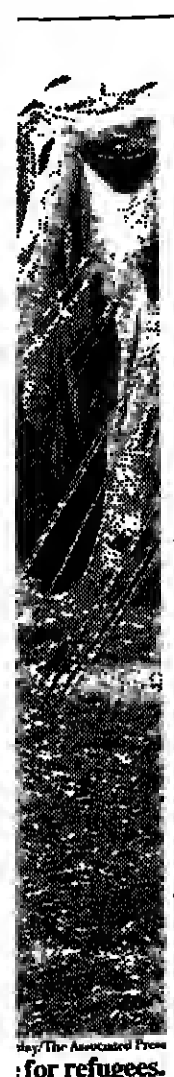
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Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Kosovo Strategies

Like President John Kennedy's naval quarantine of Cuba during the 1962 missile crisis, NATO's planned embargo on oil shipments to Serbia is not called a blockade by diplomats, for fear that term of war could widen the conflict. But the intent is clear — use a naval armada in the Adriatic Sea to deny Slobodan Milosevic's forces the fuel they need to operate in Kosovo. If executed with a healthy regard for Russian sensibilities, it can sap Serbian strength and speed the way to a political settlement.

As the war in Yugoslavia enters its second month, NATO is searching for a combination of force and diplomacy that will induce Mr. Milosevic to reach for a peace deal. Last weekend's NATO summit meeting in Washington endorsed several potentially productive steps in that direction, including the naval action, intensification of the air war and a subtle but significant shift in the alliance's conditions for a ceasefire. All of these can support a critical round of diplomacy that was to begin this Tuesday in Moscow, with Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott meeting Russian leaders.

The interdiction of oil tankers will not cut off petroleum supplies to Serbia. Smugglers will be eager to collect the premium fees that come with running a blockade, and some overland shipments are likely to continue. But after bombing Serbian refineries it would be a mistake not to try to limit the flow of oil through Yugoslav ports. Russia has been sending oil to Ser-

bia, and NATO must work with Moscow to avoid a confrontation with tankers carrying Russian fuel. The alliance cannot afford to provoke military tensions with Russia or drive the Kremlin from the peacemaking role that Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said on Monday his country is now playing. The best way to avoid either possibility is to persuade the Russians not to send further shipments to Serbia. The subject should be on Mr. Talbott's agenda.

Although Mr. Ivanov made clear in an interview that NATO and Mr. Milosevic remain far apart on peace terms, Mr. Talbott was carrying an important concession from the alliance. NATO is now prepared to suspend bombing when Serbian forces begin to leave Kosovo, rather than waiting for a withdrawal to be completed. NATO also signaled some flexibility over the weekend about the composition and command of an international peacekeeping force in Kosovo, saying it would seek a UN Security Council mandate for the troops. That would require Russian assent.

It is unfortunate that the NATO meeting dodged whether to start assembling ground forces in the Balkans to keep open the option of a land campaign. The additional pressure might help move Mr. Milosevic.

For now, the best strategy is to press ahead with bombing, organize the blockade and be imaginative in the pursuit of diplomacy.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Help the Timorese

Army-sponsored militias are on the rampage in the Indonesian territory of East Timor. They are stirring up violence against independence-seeking activists and threatening to force an early plebiscite by which the Timorese are to choose between autonomy and independence.

East Timor is the small former Portuguese colony (for three centuries) that Indonesia invaded in 1975 and repressed thereafter. The chance to break this pattern of Third World colonialism arose only last year when the military-backed Suharto regime was replaced by the administration of B.J. Habibie. The United Nations opened peace talks that produced an Indonesian offer, confirmed on Friday, to let the Timorese choose between a liberal autonomy or independence outright. It was the least Indonesia could do.

But it was too much for civilian hard-liners in the cabinet and for un-

reconstructed elements in the Indonesian military. Paramilitaries have run wild. From detention, the acknowledged leader of Timorese nationalism, Xanana Gusmão, has called for "popular insurrection."

Before all hope of a peaceful negotiated transition in East Timor is undermined, an international presence needs to be placed in the territory to oversee the vote. This is made essential by Indonesia's flagrant neglect of its responsibility to provide law and order. The United Nations does not seem to be in the right temper for peacekeeping at the moment. Politically, Asians have been slow to think regionally about such missions. That puts a burden on Australia, which has the proximity to ensure interest, and the resources, including its democratic system, to provide leadership in assisting a neighbor to be reborn free.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

The Global Economy

When you recall how global economic collapse was seen as a real possibility not so long ago, current conditions must be viewed as encouraging. The mandates of the financial world are declaring the world financial crisis solved, or at least "bottomed out." Financial markets in Asia are reviving, Brazil weathered its devaluation better than expected, and its neighbors suffered less than feared. All in all, the "contagion" of collapse seems to have been contained.

This is good news, no doubt. But, at the risk of being curmudgeonly, we think a few cautions may be in order.

Markets have turned up in some developing countries, but not in all, and even the healthiest remain fragile. Political uncertainty in the world's third- and fourth-most populous nations, Russia and Indonesia, continues to block economic recovery there. If there is to be a global upturn, it will depend on growth in the three major developed economies of the world: Europe, Japan and the United States. Growth in Europe remains slow, as does the progress of structural reform in Japan. That leaves the United States, which, as U.S. officials have repeatedly said, cannot remain forever the sole engine of growth. Moreover, consumer spending in America depends in some real if unquantifiable way on the soaring stock market; a dip in the Dow could dampen growth throughout the U.S. economy.

Then there is the question of whether the right lessons have been learned from the scare that began in July 1997 with the devaluation of Thailand's currency — and whether incipient recovery will relieve the pressure for nec-

essary reform. One consensus that has emerged is that free market reforms can be implemented only alongside regulatory reforms. Too much government intrusion is unhealthy, but quality government oversight is essential. Particularly in South Korea and Thailand, this lesson has been taken to heart. But whether difficult reforms will continue even in those leading cases once there is no longer a perception of crisis remains to be seen.

The same is true on a global level. U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin has been right to oppose huge structural changes that might cause more problems than they solve. But now the banking industry is resisting even modest reforms meant to ensure that it bears more of the risk of lending to the developing world. Such change would slow the flow of capital to poor countries, the banks protest, but that is just the point. Capital flows should reflect the real economic environment. Loans made without an honest assessment of the risk, with an assumption that the IMF and the taxpayers behind it will pick up the pieces if things go wrong, end up doing more harm than good even to the borrowers.

Finally, it is important to remember that recovery in the stock, bond and currency markets is not the same as recovery for the ordinary people who suffered most in the collapses of the past 21 or so months. Many middle-class people were pushed into poverty, and many poor families have become more so. Their recovery may still be years away. Their suffering and dashed hopes must remain a focus of financial policymakers in the developed world.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's War on Poverty Has Yet to Be Won

By Joseph Stiglitz

WASHINGTON — The war on global poverty has had its share of victories. Life expectancy at birth in developing countries is now 65 years, up five years since 1980. Infant mortality has dropped from 87 deaths per thousand births in 1980 to 60 today. More than half of all young people attend secondary school in developing countries.

In some places, progress has been dramatic. In Indonesia, for example, 60 percent of the people lived in poverty in 1975. This year, despite a deep recession and financial crisis, the figure is around 7 percent.

But the war on poverty must continue, because much remains to be done. Too often, the benefits of development have not been evenly shared.

World Development Indicators 1999, published by the World Bank on Monday, shows that per capita income in sub-Saharan Africa fell from 1965 to 1997, even as it soared by 440 percent in East Asia.

The meteoric growth, and more recently the sharp reversal, of some East Asian

economies show how development can reduce poverty rapidly, but also how many of these benefits can suddenly vanish. The chain reaction of financial crisis that burned through East Asia and Russia and shook Brazil has pushed millions back into poverty.

Despite the impressive reduction in poverty in some regions, the gap between rich and poor is widening. Education for some has resulted in rising incomes, but it has left the unskilled further behind. Also, new industries such as electronics and information technology have sparked booms in some regions but left others — including China's interior, northeastern Thailand and the more remote islands of Indonesia — to wither.

Economic growth does not help the poor much in countries where distribution of wealth is highly unequal. The poor in these countries do not enjoy many of the benefits of boom times, but they do shoulder the costs of collapse.

In societies of high inequality, growth allows the poor to keep their heads just above water. When it stalls, they sink.

The social impact of the East Asian crisis has been enormous. Millions of family breadwinners have been thrown out of work. Their sudden unemployment and loss of income are all the more difficult because the economic boom in their region steadily eroded traditional Asian safety nets of family and community support, much as a similar process did in the West 50 years ago.

These social networks, which once met the needs of children, the elderly and the sick, have not yet been replaced by new state or private-sector-based structures that are up to the task. As traditional informal welfare systems decline, without new government-funded ones yet in place, the social fallout from the crisis hits the poor hard. After a generation of rising living standards, poverty is growing again in many countries.

Even before the crisis, poverty was undermining transition in Eastern Europe. In 1989 about 14 million people in the former Communist bloc lived on less than \$4 a day. By the mid-1990s that number had risen to about 147 million.

In the former Soviet Union, the introduction of capitalism sits uneasily with deepening poverty and inequality, which have worsened as a result of the East Asian crisis. Most countries of the former Soviet Union have lower per capita income and worse social conditions than they did 10 years ago.

Poverty and inequality have increased elsewhere, too, from Venezuela to Bangladesh and sub-Saharan Africa, where hard-won increases in life expectancy are being rolled back. It is estimated, for example, that one in four Zimbabwians aged from 15 to 49 is infected with HIV, while nine other African countries have infection rates of more than 10 percent.

Still, development is possible, even in the midst of a regional crisis. For example, India and China, whose popu-

lations account for more than 38 percent of the world's population, have averaged growth of more than 3.8 and 8.6 percent, respectively, in the last decade.

It is clear that there is no magic formula for successful development. But there are common ingredients that have helped produce the world's development success stories. Investing in people by providing primary and secondary education, basic health care and some form of social protection for the poor is central. So are strong institutions of banking, law, government and public service, to reassure investors that a predictable, rules-based system is in place and that property is protected.

Successful development will also be enhanced when governments and their agencies, as well as private companies, are run in an honest, accountable and transparent manner.

The writer, senior vice president and chief economist of the World Bank, contributed this column to the International Herald Tribune.

Global Recovery Coming Soon? Maybe So, but Nobody Knows

By Robert J. Samuelson

WASHINGTON — What we know about the global financial crisis is that we don't know very much. At every stage, it has surprised. Hardly anyone saw it coming in mid-1997. Nor were its most dramatic developments, from President Suharto's downfall to Russia's debt default, widely anticipated.

So there is ample cause to be skeptical of the latest bit of conventional wisdom: that the worst is over and the world economy is on the mend. It may be true or it may be wishful thinking. We may be seeing sunrise or just a false dawn.

For believers, favorable signs abound. Last week the International Monetary Fund forecast a global recovery. In 1999, the IMF said, the world economy will grow by only 2.3 percent, but in 2000 the pace will pick up to 3.4 percent and, more important, some of the hardest-hit countries will revive.

South Korea is already recovering. The IMF predicts that its economy will expand by 4.6 percent in 2000. The IMF is not alone. Merrill Lynch regularly polls global money managers. The latest survey covered 293 financial institutions that handle more than \$8 trillion of investment funds. "Economic optimism is surging," reports Merrill Lynch. In Europe, 74 percent of fund managers expect "a stronger economy a year from now."

Among Japanese managers it is 61 percent. In the United States, money managers are raising profit forecasts. What explains the turnaround is reflation, or the perception of it.

For the last year, deflation fears have haunted financial markets. Depressed by low demand, prices of oil, grains and minerals have already declined sharply. A wider deflation might cause a downward economic spiral. Profits would drop as companies received falling prices for products but paid fixed costs, mainly wages. Trade would suffer. This would stymie export-led recoveries in Asia and Latin America.

But interest rate cuts in the United States, Europe and Japan have defused these fears. Last fall the Federal Reserve lowered its key short-term interest rate from 5.5 to 4.75 percent in three steps. In early April the European Central Bank reduced its key rate from 3 to 2.5 percent. Short-term rates in Japan are almost zero. Raw material prices have stabilized.

Easier credit, it is thought, ensures expansion and precludes deflation. It promotes borrowing and spending, which prevent prices from falling. The IMF has helped. Its crisis man-

agement, although often chaotic, acted to prevent a simultaneous collapse of developing countries. So South Korea's recession is ending just as Brazil's is beginning. The staggered slumps have cushioned the adverse effect on the global economy. Fear has subsided.

But could the improvement be more psychological than real? The global economy is the sum of its parts. If the parts don't work well, neither will the whole. By the IMF's reckoning, the United States, the European Union and Japan account for almost half the world's economic production. For each there is reason to worry.

The upbeat story about Europe and Japan is that they are now copying America's formula for economic success. Companies are "restructuring" and cutting costs. Profits and stock prices will improve.

These good things involve some bad things. "Restructuring" often means firing people. Who will employ the unemployed? In America, the economy creates new businesses and enables successful ones to expand. Europe and Japan don't do this nearly as well. In Japan, regulations and cartels discourage new companies. In Europe, high payroll taxes and light regulations deter hiring. Even with low interest rates, Europe and Japan might not grow strongly.

The problem in the United States is just the opposite: The economy has done so well that it may be fated to falter. Personal debt is high. The stock market may be overvalued. Strong consumer spending could weaken.

And America has most aided other countries by buying their exports. In 1998, the U.S. current account registered a deficit of \$233 billion. (Japan and the European Union ran surpluses of \$122 billion and \$78 billion.) Without rich countries buying their products, poorer countries will struggle to revive.

No one knows how all these cross-currents will play out. Economic forecasts are bedged with qualifications. Global recovery could be just around the bend, but the present reality is that most economies are getting worse, not better. Growth is slowing in Europe and China. Japan's recession is deepening. So is Latin America's.

Economics is even less a science now than a few years ago. The rising importance of global trade and finance has created new forces that constantly change and are only dimly understood. The people trying to contain the present distress have had to improvise. It would be dramatic to declare that they have succeeded, but the truth is that we don't know. Neither do they.

—Newsweek

Start Massing Troops and Don't Deal With Milosevic

By Dusko Doder

WASHINGTON — Since the air war in Yugoslavia appears to be flagging, the United States should begin to face up to the prospect of deploying ground troops if it is to achieve its stated objectives. NATO should begin pre-positioning troops in Hungary, a new NATO member and Yugoslavia's northern neighbor, and in Albania. It needs to demonstrate that victory is the only strategy in the conflict with Slobodan Milosevic.

Pre-positioning of forces, which would take weeks, should be accompanied by several steps aimed at convincing Serbs, particularly the intellectual and political elite, of the need for political change in Belgrade.

One of those steps could be a

pause in the air campaign once the pre-positioning gets under way. So far the bombing has rallied Serbs around their leader, but there are indications, including guarded conversations with intellectuals in Belgrade, that the support is more superficial than substantial. It could well crumble once the air bombardment pauses.

Many Serbs privately regard Mr. Milosevic as Serbia's nemesis. They should be persuaded that it is in their best interest to remove him.

When he came to power in 1987, he was probably the most popular politician in Serbia's history. By 1991, he could no longer take a walk in the streets

of Belgrade. The man who started with the promise to the Serbian nation that "no one will ever dare beat you again" used riot police, tear gas and tanks against his people three years later to keep himself in power.

With the bombing pause, the West should bring charges against Mr. Milosevic before the war crimes tribunal in The Hague for his role in the wars in Croatia and Bosnia. His record during the past 12 years makes it conspicuously clear that he is a principal generator of instability in the region.

This might seriously undermine his standing in Serbia and make clear to the Serbian establishment that he could not

play any role in the eventual settlement of the crisis.

Finally, the West has to reach out to the Serbs. Before the bombing started, President Bill Clinton had not made the case for it to the American people, let alone to the people on whom the bombs would fall. The NATO allies should clearly articulate that this is not a war against the Serbian nation; nor is the U.S. Air Force the air force of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The bombing pause would alleviate the plight of the civilian population, particularly the wretched Kosovo Albanians. Missiles and bombs launched in the name of protecting them have in fact made their situation worse, quite apart from Serbian brutality. The destruction of the civilian infrastructure may be "degrading" Mr. Milosevic's military, but it is also degrading Western moral values. Tony Blair's spin notwithstanding, there is no such thing as bombing "with compassion."

No doubt NATO can bomb the Serbs into submission. But if deployment of ground troops is inevitable, continued bombings of civilian targets would enhance popular hostility to foreign soldiers and make their mission more dangerous over the long term. Resistance to foreign invaders is something

that has been bred into countless generations of Serbs by their unhappy history.

Cruise missiles are the wrong instruments for solving the conflict between Serbian and Albanian nationalism.

What is in essence a war for territory can be resolved with a modicum of goodwill on both sides and patient but forceful outside mediation. But that can be done only after Mr. Milosevic leaves the scene.

However ill-conceived the assault on Yugoslavia, the main thing is to stay the course. American prestige is deeply involved, and extrication will not be easy. The worst outcome is to let Mr. Milosevic prevail.

There are temptations to downgrade the initially stated U.S. objectives and make a face-saving deal with Mr. Milosevic. The Clinton administration made this mistake earlier, dealing with and rehabilitating Mr. Milosevic after he was publicly branded a war criminal by Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger in December 1992. To do so again would amount to a resounding defeat.

The writer, a free-lance journalist who covered Yugoslavia from 1991 to 1996, and is author of "The Yugoslavs," contributed this column to The Baltimore Sun.

Help Ukrainians to Choose the West

By Ihor Junyk

CHICAGO — The noise about a so-called Slavic brotherhood made up of Russia, Belarus and Yugoslavia is not likely to have much practical influence in stopping NATO's air strikes in the Balkans. Yet the West cannot afford to play down the threat that such an alliance poses in one crucial quarter: the battle for the support of Ukraine.

To date, the Ukrainians have walked a tightrope between East and West and played one off against the other. On March 12, the government officially welcomed the eastward expansion of NATO, expressing hope that the addition of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic would contribute to "the further promotion of the ideals of democracy and liberty on our continent."

That same day, Leonid Kuchma, president of Ukraine, was host to Alexander Lukashenko, the authoritarian leader of Belarus, who vigorously condemned NATO's expansion and urged a united front of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine to oppose the Western military alliance. Mr. Kuchma avoided commenting on Mr. Lukashenko's radical pronouncements.

Mr. Kuchma was also non-committal at a meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the loose grouping of former Soviet states, in early April, where President Boris Yeltsin of Russia urged a "strategic partnership" between Moscow and Kiev to oppose NATO's Balkan policy.

This fence-sitting makes political sense domestically. Russia is their most important trading partner, but the Ukrainian people are deeply divided.

Opinion polls have shown that Russian-speaking Ukrainians, who mostly live in the eastern part of the country where there is nostalgia for the Soviet Union, are twice as likely to side with their Slavic brothers as they are with NATO.

The same polls show that Ukrainian speakers, many of whom live in the western part of the country and have historical ties to the West dating from the Hapsburg Empire, are twice as likely to support NATO.

With national elections approaching this fall, Mr. Kuchma knows that he cannot count on one side or the other. So, for example, he has condemned what he calls NATO's "military interference" in Yugoslavia while continuing to follow through on pro-Western policies such as agreeing to open a permanent NATO military mission in the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense and to host a NATO peacekeeping exercise this August in Lviv.

This juggling act is increasingly difficult to keep up, especially because of the country's economic problems. Ukraine's GDP may contract by 9 percent this year, and inflation could soar by 70 percent, according to one independent estimate. Unemployment is rising dramati-

cally. As in Russia, the government owes back wages and pensions to millions of people.

Public opinion has not turned decisively against the West as it has in Russia and Belarus. In part this may be because the Clinton administration has recognized the geopolitical importance of Ukraine, which has been one of the largest recipients of American foreign aid.

The West should seize this moment to push Ukraine into closer contact with NATO and the European Union. Instead of threatening to strip Ukraine of its Council of Europe membership for failing to carry out political and economic reforms, the Europeans should be taking more positive steps to encourage democratization and discourage corruption.

As the situation in Yugoslavia has shown, even trouble in small states can affect Europe — and Ukraine is a big state.

Even worse would be if Ukraine joined a coalition of disgruntled nations working to undermine Western interests and values.

In case of increased hostilities, Ukraine's role as a buffer between Russia and NATO's Central European states would become even more crucial.

Ukraine is sitting on a fence. It is up to the West whether it lands in Europe or in the Slavic brotherhood.

The writer, lecturer in history at the University of Chicago, contributed this column to The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Cuban 'Fight'

PARIS — A leading member of the Cuban independent party in Paris has addressed an open letter to the President of the United States, the tenor of which may be gathered from the following passage: "Let it be understood that just as we fought for thirty years against our mother country, so shall we fight, but this time with hatred, as desperate men, against a foreign invading people. The United States might be able to seize the Cubans' land, but it will be necessary first to exterminate the last of the Cubans!"

1924: Klan's War

NEW YORK — The Ku Klux Klan's nightgown brigade descended upon Long Island "to declare war" on Governor "Al" Smith as candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency. A fiery orator had projected himself from Atlanta, Ga., to proclaim that if "Alcohol Smith" ever sets his foot across the threshold of the White House he would have to do so over the Klan's body. The speaker was I. R. Hugnet. Hugnet attacked Governor Smith for his action in signing the Mullin-Gage dry law "repeller," whereby the State Prohibition Law was repealed.

1949: India's Status

LONDON — The eight nations of the Commonwealth issued a major declaration of policy to enable India to become a republic and still remain in the Commonwealth. The declaration marked a historic development in the unwritten but implicit "constitution" which unites the Commonwealth nations. India has pledged loyalty to the general principles pursued by the Commonwealth without undertaking the moral obligations which bind the countries together.

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OPINION/LETTERS

The 'Third Way' Is Changing
The Role of Government

By E.J. Dionne Jr.

WASHINGTON — The last thing the resolutely centrist and capitalist Democratic Leadership Council ever expected was a kind word to be said at one of its forums about socialism.

But the council, which came into being in part to wage an ideological war on its party's left wing, found itself playing host Sunday not only to President Bill Clinton, as it often does, but also to four West European leaders whose parties have socialist and social democratic roots. It was inevitable that someone would bring up the S-word.

In truth, all four leaders — Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany, Prime Minister Wim Kok of the Netherlands and Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema of Italy — represent anything but old-style state socialism. All subscribe to versions of the "Third Way" approach to politics that Mr. Blair and Mr. Clinton have been marketing and that the Democratic Leadership Council was celebrating.

Third Wayers are often defined negatively. Mr. Blair likes to say they are neither "old left" nor "new right," but a new home for those who would ally capitalist dynamism with social solidarity. "Our position is that enterprise and justice can live together," said Mr. Blair, "and that actually, in today's world, they have to."

But it fell to Mr. D'Alema to remind Mr. Clinton and the council of the perhaps awkward tradition represented on the platform. Mr. D'Alema suggested that while all five leaders shared similar reformist principles, their "big problem" concerned a single word.

"There are words that in your civilization, in your history, sound difficult to understand or to accept," he said. "For example, we belong to the Socialist International, and I'm aware that this word is somewhat sensitive here" — at this moment, the crowd cracked up in laughter — "and I can see that we have avoided pronouncing this word here. But we should prevail over this fear of words."

Mr. Clinton smiled and retorted, "I'm not sure I would have you here, Massimo, if I were running for re-election."

That little moment captured both the promise and the difficulties with the Third Way. The Third Way does, indeed, represent a convergence across a broad range of political movements, center and left, on an approach to social

reform. Third Wayers accept capitalism as a given, but promise to do something about its inequities and uncertainties. They talk not of "socialism" but of "community," not of "collectivism" but of "solidarity."

To hear the Third Wayers talk Sunday was a refreshing alternative to the cant about "big government" versus "small government." All agreed that government could be too bureaucratic; all spoke kind words for citizen involvement and decentralized decision-making.

But all accepted that government existed to help solve problems that could not be solved elsewhere, especially the difficulties faced by those displaced in the new economy. It was possible, as Mr. Blair said, for government to "get results," and to do so, as Mr. Schröder said, by using the "trial and error" principle that we seem to accept in every other part of life except where government is concerned.

But the fact that Third Wayism seems like common sense is a problem as well as a strength. Anyone who accepts at least some role for government would seem to be a potential Third Wayer.

Writing in the current issue of *Dissent*, the economist Jeff Faux argues that "the Third Way has become so wide that it is more like a political parking lot than a highway to anywhere in particular."

Mr. Faux and other Third Way critics underestimate the extent to which the Third Way ideas have begun to change politics. Mr. Clinton, Mr. Blair and their friends have moved the political debate away from an outright rejection of government. Voters have signaled that they will not passively accept any outcome that the global marketplace happens to force on them. Mr. Kok's government in the Netherlands, more adventurous than either Mr. Blair's or Mr. Clinton's, has promoted innovations to make labor markets flexible while keeping unemployment low and preserving core social benefits.

Still, the Third Way has largely been a successful defensive effort. It ended the Reagan-Thatcher era and gave liberals and, yes, socialists presentable new clothes to wear. The Third Wayers' real challenge comes now that they hold power in so many places: To make their marriage of "enterprise and justice" as happy in practice as Mr. Blair makes it sound in theory.

The Washington Post.

How Much More Agony Before Guns Are Banned?

By Karen Grigsby Bates

LOS ANGELES — It is a question that will — and should — be asked over and over in the wake of the bloody Colorado school shooting spree: Can the National Rifle Association continue to justify its stand on gun possession and still think of itself as an organization of rational human beings?

Guns don't kill people, as the association likes to point out, people kill

MEANWHILE

people. In this case, at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, enraged, irrational, depressed young men killed 12 of their fellow schoolmates and one teacher and wounded many more. But you will notice they did not clutch them to death with baseball bats.

They used guns.

For years, the NRA has lobbied vigorously against virtually every piece of anti-gun legislation introduced around the United States, from local to national levels. Americans should be able to exercise their Second Amendment rights, the group posits, and legally be allowed to bear arms. Unconcealed, concealed, whatever. Well, it's not the bearing part that is so worrisome — it's the using part.

I am not a gun fan, but I understand why, in certain instances, a person might want to keep one nearby, at home, for self-protection.

Until there are a lot fewer guns on the street, it will be hard to convince worried residents in high-crime neighborhoods that a gun, even one they may not really know how to use, is

not better real-life protection than a burglar alarm or a dog.

But the National Rifle Association, despite its patronizing blather to the contrary, is not terribly interested in making sure that law-abiding citizens maintain the ability to protect themselves with firearms. While the organization is more diverse today than it has been in years, a demographic check of the NRA's roster probably would reveal that its members are, overwhelmingly, white, male and fairly politically conservative. They believe in the Second Amendment because bearing arms protects them from everyone else. And so every incursion, no matter how small or rational, is met with a blitzkrieg of resistance.

Intelligent compromise is not possible in such circumstances, because there is always an explanation for how each gun death tragedy is an exception to the rule.

The NRA president, Charlton Heston, says tragedies such as Columbine's could be averted if armed guards are placed in every school across America. But an armed guard was at Columbine, and he was hopelessly outnumbered by the firearms the assassins carried.

Gun advocates are right: A gun did not almost kill Ronald Reagan's press secretary, James Brady, in 1981: a person did. Same for Colin Ferguson on the Long Island Railroad when he calmly slaughtered and wounded a car full of homeward-bound commuters in 1993.

And guns were merely the medium that enraged children chose in sad places like Jonesboro, Arkansas; West Paducah, Kentucky; Springfield, Ore-



go: Fayetteville, Tennessee; Edinboro, Pennsylvania; Pearl, Mississippi; and now Littleton, to dispatch their classmates en masse. In those scenarios, it was definitely people killing and wounding people. With guns.

Eventually, the cost will be too high for even the greediest politicians to support. They will begin to turn away NRA funding for their campaigns and do the right thing, and the long-postponed curtailment of guns will begin.

But how many more schools will have to suffer the agonies that were witnessed last Tuesday in Littleton before this happens?

It is an ineluctable part of the human condition that we sometimes kill each

other. If we did not do it with guns, we would find another way.

I am not naive enough to assume that all homicide would cease if gun laws were more stringent. But I can do the math: A knife, a rock, a speeding vehicle cannot produce the kind of widespread devastation that one angry 16-year-old can with a semiautomatic weapon.

It is time for the National Rifle Association to wake up and realize that eliminating citizen use of such weapons is something that can — and should — happen.

The writer, a free-lance author, contributed this comment to the *Los Angeles Times*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Children and Guns

What can we Americans do to ensure that our schools are safe? At the very least, we ought to be able to summon the political will to make guns inaccessible.

If we cannot change our gun laws to reflect the reality of our times, we will experience tragedies such as the one in Littleton, Colorado, again and again. And we will continue to lose moral authority in the eyes of the rest of the world.

EMILY BERNIS HEYSER,
Munich.

I live thousands of miles from even the possibility of such a horrific event, yet as an American, I feel pain both for those who have lost their children and those who will forever live in fear.

I am also sad for myself. The glimmer of hope that one day my family could return to the United States has faded. How could I possibly bring my children to a country that invites such violence?

The "right to bear arms" was never intended for today's America. Americans are now a stressed, pressed and unpredictable people who cannot be trusted with open access to guns. Special

interest groups must no longer be heeded by politicians seeking campaign contributions; their money must cease to be a reason for inaction.

EILEEN SCHLUTER,
Nice.

Whether violent films that seem to glorify immorality are helping to cause the disintegration of American civil society, or merely reflecting it, is secondary.

Of primary importance is that America appears to be morally adrift, making it difficult to assert leadership over other countries that may not have stellar econ-

omies or cruise missiles, but where people would be incredulous at the idea of metal detectors in their children's schools.

NICHOLAS D. RAY,
Le Mesnil le Roi, France.

We Americans live in a society where all is allowed as long as we apologize afterward. Our own president leads the way in setting examples of denial and then teary-eyed penance.

Wake up, America! It is never too late for soul-searching.

TERESA DE STEFANO,
Nantes, France.

BOOKS

SURRENDER, DOROTHY

By Meg Wolitzer. 224 pages. \$22. Scribner.

Reviewed by Richard Bernstein

SARA SWERDLOW is not the kind of person you expect to die young. She is a 30-year-old perpetual student of Japanese at Columbia University, a person who seems to have put off adulthood, even mortality, indefinitely, and she is pretty and charming to boot. But Sara dies in a traffic accident in the Hamptons. Abruptly her mother (more like an older sister than a typical mother) and the friends who shared her summer cottage find their lives thrown into gloom and despair.

"Surrender, Dorothy," Meg Wolitzer's slender new novel, tells the story of the aftermath of Sara's death. It follows the vapor trails left by the lives of Natalie Swerdlow, Sara's possessive, self-centered, divorced mother, and of Adam Langer, a playwright who was Sara's inseparable best friend and confidant. Adam's lover, Shawn Best, is also a playwright, but he is aspiring where Adam has arrived, and he is desperate for some success. Also in the picture are Maddie and Peter, a law-

yer and a high school teacher ambivalently married and the parents of a 7-month-old boy named Duncan whose behavior is roughly as mature as that of the adults who surround him and only a bit more aimless.

Wolitzer, whose previous novels include "Hidden Pictures" and "Friends for Life," is a skillful practitioner of a kind of Upper West Side literary genre: a close relative of the cinematic genre most associated with Nora Ephron and movies like "Sleepless in Seattle" and "You've Got Mail." Ephron's debut as a movie director, "This Is My Life," was based on Wolitzer's "This Is Your Life." The ingredients of the genre are a kind of wistful, Meg Ryan adorableness, a post-sexual-revolution erotic casualness, a set of comfortably familiar post-yuppie characters and a keen, campy appreciation of the artifacts of yuppie life (Starbucks, psychoanalysis and semiotics majors at Brown).

Wolitzer is a witty and likable writer with a tenderhearted, critical awareness of the lighter-than-air quality of her characters. There is an appealing delicacy to her writing and a skillful exploitation of the almost invisible neuroses of the people who pass through her pages. But her novel also incarnates the very weightless-

ness it describes. It is a divertimento, not a symphony, less a satirical commentary than an artifact of the world it parodies and therefore similar to it in its adolescent "Leave It to Beaver" fecklessness.

This is a novel, after all, that uses an image from "The Wizard of Oz" as its refrain, whose characters' recollections of summer camp make up their most vivid memories. The themes — jealousy, neurotic possessiveness, halfhearted infidelity, the floating menace of AIDS — make for a very contemporary broth, but it is one that stays well under the spiritual boiling point.

Sara, even in her death, is the central character of Wolitzer's story, and she is also emblematic of the charm and insouciance of her entire dramatis personae. "Sara would be loved. Sara Swerdlow would get away with it; she would float through everything she undertook, and no one would mind."

Sara was the only person in her circle who was not jealous of Adam, who wrote a play, a light comedy about a Jewish family on Mars, that went all the way to Broadway. "Adam represented a certain mainstream brand of gay culture that was bookish and appealing and highly presentable." He and Sara were a

couple whose very lack of sexual attraction for each other made for a kind of higher intimacy, especially when compared with the passionlessness of their relations with boy-friends.

When Sara dies on her way back from a quick excursion to the Pro-Z-Cone near her group summer house, her entourage is thrown together in grief. Natalie, the mother who never quite cut the umbilical cord, had been having sex all evening — and finds out about the tragedy only the next morning. In her shock at getting the news over her cell phone, she has an accident in a New Jersey-Manhattan tunnel: it is as if she can't get through life without doing all the things her daughter has done.

Natalie drives to Long Island and shows up at the disheveled summer rental where the rest of Wolitzer's story unfolds. Sara's friends have not been in car accidents of their own, but they have been living "like squatters in the darkness of a tunnel." With Natalie's arrival, they are shaken out of their torpor just enough to begin to live out the conflicts that Sara's disappearance brings to the surface.

Shawn desperately tries to exploit his relationship with Adam to advance his cause as a playwright. Happless and poor and too terrified to get

tested for HIV (even though five of his former lovers have died of AIDS), he is taken in hand by Natalie, who is glad for the opportunity to be somebody's mother. Maddie, already alienated from Peter, finds her annoyance with him intensifying. She had told Sara the basic problem: "He's male. And therefore, I don't think he understands women."

Meanwhile Adam misses Sara and his second play is going badly. The residents of the summer house begin to quarrel, not exactly in the searing fashion of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" but with a certain restrained testiness all the same.

"There was a geometry of bad feelings in the air — none of it referred to directly." But it is here also that Wolitzer's story takes on the spiritually undernourished quality of the world it evokes, "Surrender, Dorothy" retains its lean-cuisine charm right to the end, and it offers a degree of resolution for each of the characters who have suffered in the wake of Sara's demise. Life drifts on, in other words, and so does Wolitzer's book, wry and bip and well endowed with witty lines but always just a bit too cute, self-consciously inoffensive, like the lightweight confection that it is.

New York Times Service

BEST SELLERS

The New York Times				3 YESTERDAY, I CRIED,							
This list is based on reports from more than 2,000 bookstores throughout the United States. Weeks on the list are not necessarily consecutive.						by Yvonne VanZant		3	4		
						4 TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE,		WITH MORRIE, by Mitch Albom		4	79
						5 BUSINESS @ THE SPEED OF THOUGHT,		by Bill Gates with Collins Hemsley			
FICTION						6 THE CENTURY,		by Peter Jennings and Todd Brewster		5	
The Work		Last Week		Was on List		7 BELLA TUSCANY,		by Franco Mayes		7	
1 BITTERSWEET, by Danielle Steel		2		2		8 THE ART OF HAPPINESS,		by the Dalai Lama and Howard C. Cutler		8	
2 THE GIRL WHO LOVED TOM GORDON, by Stephen King						9 THE MAJORS,		by John Feinstein		12	
3 THE TESTAMENT, by John Grisham		1		10		10 TRAVELING MERCIES,		by Anne Lamott		15	
4 HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE, by J. K. Rowling		7		18		11 UNCOVERING CLINTON,		by Michael Isikoff		1	
5 WITKIND, THE VAMPIRE, by Anne Rice		3		4		12 BLACK HAWK DOWN,		by Mark Bowden		11	
6 TARA ROAD, by Maeve Smyly		4		6		13 MONICA'S STORY,		by Andrew Morton		9	
7 WHAT'S HEAVEN? by Maria Stinner		5		3		14 BLIND MAN'S BLUFF,		by Sherry Sontag and Christopher Drew with Amanda Lawrence Drew		10	
8 A NEW SONG, by Jan Karon		1		1		15 REACHING TO HEAVEN,		by James Van Praagh		13	
9 THE WED, by Amanda Quick		1		1		ADVICE, HOW-TO AND MISCELLANEOUS					
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Making Bach Swing: Saga of Ward Swingle

Giving Fugues to the Man in the Street

By Mike Zwerin
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — When he heard the Swingle Singers, Glenn Gould, who also knew how to allow Bach to swing, said, "I felt like lying on the floor and kicking my heels, that's how good I thought they were."

People used to ask Ward Swingle if it was his real name. Swingle Singers sounds too good to be true as a name for a singing group that explored Bach's swinging side. The Swingles were praised by a mix of prominent musicians, from Yehudi Menuhin and Sviatoslav Richter to Ella Fitzgerald and Dizzy Gillespie. The composer Luciano Berio called Ward Swingle's contribution to vocal techniques "an integral part of the history of music of the last 30 years, and he is a part of my own creative development."

Now 71, Swingle, who, along with his wife, Francoise, tends his garden and walks his dog in the countryside northeast of Paris, has written a book called "Swingle Singing" (Shawnee Press). It recounts one of 20th-century popular music's most encouraging success stories. The jazz critic Leonard Feather said: "The Swingle Singers qualify as a rare illustration of popular success grounded in musical validity."

When Ward Swingle was 5 years old in Mobile, Alabama, his father sat him down at the piano and said that if he did not learn how to remember "A," he could not go to the movies on Saturday. Swingle quickly developed or discovered he already had — he is not sure which — absolute pitch. Either way, being able to pick tonality out of thin air is a blessing for a singer.

Not a musician because he had a family and there was a depression, his father was an electrical contractor who accepted musical instruments from clients who could not pay. Young Ward learned the clarinet and the oboe, and how to play Bach on the piano. He and his siblings sang like the Andrews Sisters just for the fun of it.

It was a supremely eclectic musical education. By 16, he had learned the craft of music to the point where, had he been stranded in, say, Alaska, Swingle could have gotten a job playing piano in a bar, or accompanying a singer or singing himself. As it was, he went to Paris on a Fulbright grant to study with the famed concert pianist Walter Gieseking, whose conception of Bach's tempi, among other insights, opened up

his ears. One passage from a partita sounded to him like Lee Konitz.

To earn a living he sang in the studios. There were many good studio singers in Paris in the late '50s and early '60s. Mostly they were limited to singing "oooh" and "ahh" behind such big names as Charles Aznavour and Edith Piaf. It was a good living, there was work, they were busy. Swingle rented a Le Corbusier house in the suburb of Arcueil. At the same time, the songwriter Michel Legrand and future super-producer Quincy Jones were both just getting started as arranger-composers. They were writing adventurous parts for singers.

Everybody was all fired up with possibilities of things to do with the voice. It was some sort of vocal renaissance, partly inspired by the success of Lambert, Hendricks & Ross. The American singer in Paris Blossom Dearie formed the Blue Stars. Her group was followed by the Double Six. Swingle was a member of both, and co-founder of the latter.

The Double Six lyricist Mimi Perrin wrote words to music by Jones. Gerry Mulligan and others. One story was about a man who could not get out of bed, set to Jones's arrangement of Horace Silver's "Doodlin'." She made the French language swing, something that had not really been done before. But French does not travel well.

The Double Six was a highly respected vocal group many people heard of but few actually heard, and even fewer understood. They overdubbed themselves in the studio, doubling the number of voices — thus the name — a powerful sound. But it was terribly awkward for them to adapt to live situations, and taken together with the language problem, they were not an ideal touring group. Legrand moved to Hollywood to write film scores, and Jones went back home.

"The Double Six sort of faded away," Swingle says, explaining the birth of the Swingle Singers. "The rock scene was not very interesting for choruses, vocal harmonies were kind of dumb. Basically, we were just bored. We had nothing to sing. I had this classical training and so I got out 'The Well-Tempered Clavier' and I said let's see if we can't sing these things. As many people have before, we discovered that Bach swung. We couldn't help but swing, it was spontaneous."

Swing was inherent, they were not "jazzing" it up. They added accompaniment by a walking bass and brushes on a snare drum. They were willing to work in



Swingle has written a book about a life focused on popularizing classics.

their free time, and says Swingle: "We insisted on getting things right without worrying about quick financial rewards." Two out of the eight singers were American. The French singers included Perrin, Legrand's sister Christiane, and Eddy Louis, later the keyboardist with an historic organ trio including Jimmy Gourley and Kenny Clarke.

To help move the polyphony along, they sang with modified scat syllables such as "la," "doo" and "bah." "Do, re, mi" sounded too academic. Commercially, they had small expectations. Swingle thought that customers would be pretty much limited to family, friends and a few friendly musicians. He had not expected Bach to have such a wide appeal. It amazed him how the "man in the street" was able to walk around humming the "daunting double fugue, the summit of polyphonic writing in Western music, from 'The Art of the Fugue.'"

Radio disk jockeys loved it. Cultured people were pleased that Bach's fugues were done all the way through from beginning to end. The repertoire was later expanded to include Mozart, Vivaldi, Berio and Vaughan Williams. (Formed in 1973, the English successor to the original French Swingle Singers, Ward Swingle arranger and musical adviser, is still active today.)

All disciplined studio musicians, the Swingles learned how to get on and off stage gracefully, they bowed in unison, wore costumes by Pierre Balmain, Pierre Cardin and Yves Saint Laurent. They were escorted to limousines, they checked into five-star hotels, met famous people. Lady Bird Johnson invited them to perform in the White House in honor of the Israeli foreign minister, Levi Eshkol.

"They were heady times," Swingle recalls. "It was a fairy tale."

Young Pianist Conquers Moscow

By George W. Loomis

MOSCOW — A young musician has won the hearts of Muscovites. The British pianist Freddy Kempf came to prominence here last summer at the International Tchaikovsky Competition, perhaps the world's best known musical tournament and surely one of the most grueling.

From all accounts, the 21-year-old was the odds-on favorite of the audience, but he placed only third. Soon the competition was awash with charges of Russian bias on the part of the jury and other angry accusations.

That all seemed like ancient history on Sunday night when Kempf, as a full-fledged artist, gave his first solo recital in the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory.

One was reminded that competitions achieve their best results when they simply bring a vital artistic personality before the public. And whatever its faults, last summer's competition accomplished this much. Tickets for the recital were gone almost immediately. A concerto appearance a few days before sold out as well, with an orchestra that probably couldn't have sold half the seats on its own.

Kempf is now the toast of Moscow, and the parallel to Van Cliburn, who won the Tchaikovsky in 1958, is hard to overlook.

His competition videos, as well as an incandescent performance of the Schumann Piano Concerto with the Moscow Symphony last September, are regularly aired on the city's cultural television channel. And it is doubtful that even Cliburn won a comparable following among the city's young women, who bestow flowers on Kempf in the time-honored Russian fashion for artistic idols, then, less conventionally, converge on his dressing room as if he were a rock star.

They are captivated by distinctive looks traceable to a Japanese mother and a German father, an unassuming informality of dress (black turtleneck beneath a dinner jacket), and a willowy, almost fragile presence that is hard to reconcile with his fearsome displays of technique. (It turns out he is already married — to a pianist from Moscow, no less.)

Let there be any mistake, Kempf's artistry is the real thing.

He is clearly in another league from the many gifted young pianists who routinely emerge on the scene. Schu-

mann's "Carnaval," Opus 9, was full of vivid, imaginative touches, brightly impetuous in the outgoing portions but especially rich in evoking the dreamy, "Eusebius" side of Schumann's personality.

Here the languid melodies were shaped with unfailing poetry, as repeats served to reveal new levels of expression or test the melodic potential of inner voices. His exquisite playing in the haunting slow movement of Mozart's Concerto in A, K. 488, in the earlier concert was the product of a similar temperament.

Kempf's gift for lyricism almost made you forget that Beethoven's Sonata in E Major, Opus 109, is a late work, with the implication for probing interpretation.

His slightly brisk, almost matter-of-fact statement of the theme of the third movement's subtle variations aroused concern, but what followed spoke with an eloquence that duly reflected the import of the music.

AND his account of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Sonata, Opus 36, proved to be an event of almost seismic proportions. The first few measures take the pianist all over the keyboard, and there is little respite thereafter. At one point the piano sounded as if transformed into a giant carillon peeling forth huge, descending clusters of sound.

The composer later blushed at the sonata's excesses and prepared a leaner version. But Kempf goes in for the unexpurgated original and managed to impress an element of musical architecture onto its ungainly elements as well.

Until now, Kempf has been best known in England, despite appearances abroad. He made his debut with the Royal Philharmonic at the age of 8, and in 1992 he was named BBC Young Musician of the Year. Yet his career seems to have developed in an orderly manner without undue attention at the child-prodigy stage. His first record, an all-Schumann disk, will appear next month.

Asked about his reaction to the competition decision, he mentions only the anxiety he felt at the semifinals and a degree of nervousness greater than anything he experiences with a normal performance.

If his career continues to progress as it has of late, he won't have to face anything like that again.

George W. Loomis is a music writer based in Moscow.

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A Nightmare of a College Reunion

By Sheridan Morley
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — In England, it was "The Glittering Prizes" and then "Peter's Friends." In America, "The Group" and then "The Big Chill." It's the one about the vaguely incestuous gang of college friends who meet up 20 or 30 years later in varying degrees of midlife crisis. What all these scenarios have in common is the faith that we in the audience will find these people so touching, so fascinating, so real, perhaps even so like us that we will buy into the soap-opera of their relationships for at least a couple of hours.

The problem with Hanif Kureishi's "Sleep With Me," newly arrived at the National's Cottesloe, is that they are not. Recycling material already used in his autobiographical novel "Intimacy," Kureishi offers up as unpleasant a group of graduates in sexual or social or professional breakdown as you could ever hope to meet at a dinner party from hell, and I have a terrible feeling that he really believes they matter, or are in some perverse way symbolic of their times.

He lines them up for the dramatic equivalent of a late-life college group photograph, but it is one that will only appear in the pages of Hello magazine rather than the more respectable movie or literary journal to which Kureishi clearly aspires. You only have to consider for a moment what a real dramatist like Simon Gray or Alan Ayckbourn would make of this nightmarish weekend house party to realize how many opportunities Kureishi misses as he lurches from portentous drama to clumsy farce in an attempt to frame his familiars in some sort of context that might be of concern to anyone else.

Anthony Page directs with his customary elegance on a coolly splendid set



Michelle Gomez and Adrian Lukis in a scene from "Sleep With Me."

by Tim Hatley, and some very classy actors flounder around as if in a revival of Noel Coward's "Hay Fever" unaccountably rewritten by Strindberg on a bad morning. Only Jonathan Hyde seems at home as a man totally paralyzed by the self-hatred that all the other characters should be rights be sharing, instead of the smug delusion that what they have to say or think could conceivably be of any interest to anyone other than a paid psychiatrist.

The National is badly in need of strong new non-Irish dramatists, and here they have signally failed to find one. Indeed, if Kureishi had not established some screenwriting fame, it is hard to believe that "Sleep With Me" would have reached a first read-through, let alone a first night in such distinguished company.

Better news at the Whitehall, happily now retrieved from television-studio decay by the Oxford Stage Company, which under its new director, Dominic Dromgoole (late of the Peter Hall company at the Old Vic), promises at least a year of intriguing new work. The company opens with Robert Holman's "Making Noise Quietly," which admittedly has been around since 1986 but is only now getting a West End premiere. There are three distinct plays here, all linked by themes of personal breakdown in time of war. The first play is set in 1944 and concerns a Quaker conscientious objector coming to terms with his sexuality because of a brief encounter in a Kent field as the bombers fly overhead.

In the second play, a mother estranged from her son is told of his death in the Falklands, and in the last and best, a British Army deserter and his deeply disturbed little stepson are brought some kind of peace in the Black Forest by a survivor of Auschwitz. In these last two scripts, Eleanor Bron perfectly captures the quiet, haunting, dreamlike, short-story quality of Holman's writing, which not a lot seems to be happening but the echoes are deafening. Poetic drama has, since the days of T.S. Eliot and Christopher Fry, been what closes on Saturday night in this country, but with Holman there is just the chance of a welcome rebirth.

Defending the Short Documentary

By Terry Pristin
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Margaret Lazarus had been making films about social issues for 17 years before she won an Academy Award in 1994 for "Defending Our Lives," a 30-minute documentary recording the experiences of battered women who were convicted of killing their husbands.

The nomination alone landed her \$135,000 film a 10-city tour along with other nominated short films. But the Oscar made the film an instant classic with women's groups, giving Lazarus — and her cause — enormous exposure and making it much easier for her to raise money for subsequent work.

But this year, the board of governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts

and Sciences, which administers the Oscars, voted to eliminate the separate award for short documentaries (40 minutes or less), contending that there were no longer enough entries to justify it. The decision meant that next year, short and feature-length documentaries would compete in one category.

The Jan. 7 vote provoked an outcry from documentary filmmakers, who say that short documentaries, which were first recognized by the academy in 1943, are an art form in themselves, a vehicle for provocative or challenging subjects and a path of entry for young filmmakers with limited resources. Many suggested that the action was taken to shorten the Oscars presentation, an accusation that the academy leadership vigorously denied.

The protest led to a resolution seeking to restore the separate award. It was

to be taken up by the board this week, said Bruce Davis, executive director of the academy. Last week Martin Scorsese, Robert Redford, the director Taylor Hackford, Michael Eisner, the chairman of Disney, and 55 other prominent members of the film industry joined the movement to overturn the decision. In an ad running in trade papers, they said that "Oscars for short films provide inspiration to filmmakers and moviegoers worldwide."

Defending the board's decision, Davis said that a separate category for short documentaries was not warranted because most of the 23 films that were entered for nomination this year were made not for movie theaters but for television, which is outside the purview of the academy. "We have to maintain that distinction," he said. "It's not about snobbery."



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NYSE

Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close
The 2,300 most traded stocks of the day.
Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press


12 Month High	Low	Stock	De Yld PE	100 High	Low	Latest Chge	12 Month High	Low	Stock	De Yld PE	100 High	Low	Latest Chge
12	11	AA	12.8	11	11	11	12	11	AA	12.8	11	11	11
13	12	AB	12.8	11	11	11	13	12	AB	12.8	11	11	11
14	13	AC	12.8	11	11	11	14	13	AC	12.8	11	11	11
15	14	AD	12.8	11	11	11	15	14	AD	12.8	11	11	11
16	15	AE	12.8	11	11	11	16	15	AE	12.8	11	11	11
17	16	AF	12.8	11	11	11	17	16	AF	12.8	11	11	11
18	17	AG	12.8	11	11	11	18	17	AG	12.8	11	11	11
19	18	AH	12.8	11	11	11	19	18	AH	12.8	11	11	11
20	19	AI	12.8	11	11	11	20	19	AI	12.8	11	11	11
21	20	AJ	12.8	11	11	11	21	20	AJ	12.8	11	11	11
22	21	AK	12.8	11	11	11	22	21	AK	12.8	11	11	11
23	22	AL	12.8	11	11	11	23	22	AL	12.8	11	11	11
24	23	AM	12.8	11	11	11	24	23	AM	12.8	11	11	11
25	24	AN	12.8	11	11	11	25	24	AN	12.8	11	11	11
26	25	AO	12.8	11	11	11	26	25	AO	12.8	11	11	11
27	26	AP	12.8	11	11	11	27	26	AP	12.8	11	11	11
28	27	AQ	12.8	11	11	11	28	27	AQ	12.8	11	11	11
29	28	AR	12.8	11	11	11	29	28	AR	12.8	11	11	11
30	29	AS	12.8	11	11	11	30	29	AS	12.8	11	11	11
31	30	AT	12.8	11	11	11	31	30	AT	12.8	11	11	11
32	31	AV	12.8	11	11	11	32	31	AV	12.8	11	11	11
33	32	AW	12.8	11	11	11	33	32	AW	12.8	11	11	11
34	33	AX	12.8	11	11	11	34	33	AX	12.8	11	11	11
35	34	AY	12.8	11	11	11	35	34	AY	12.8	11	11	11
36	35	AZ	12.8	11	11	11	36	35	AZ	12.8	11	11	11
37	36	BA	12.8	11	11	11	37	36	BA	12.8	11	11	11
38	37	BB	12.8	11	11	11	38	37	BB	12.8	11	11	11
39	38	BC	12.8	11	11	11	39	38	BC	12.8	11	11	11
40	39	BD	12.8	11	11	11	40	39	BD	12.8	11	11	11
41	40	BE	12.8	11	11	11	41	40	BE	12.8	11	11	11
42	41	BF	12.8	11	11	11	42	41	BF	12.8	11	11	11
43	42	BG	12.8	11	11	11	43	42	BG	12.8	11	11	11
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45	44	BI	12.8	11	11	11	45	44	BI	12.8	11	11	11
46	45	BJ	12.8	11	11	11	46	45	BJ	12.8	11	11	11
47	46	BK	12.8	11	11	11	47	46	BK	12.8	11	11	11
48	47	BL	12.8	11	11	11	48	47	BL	12.8	11	11	11
49	48	BM	12.8	11	11	11	49	48	BM	12.8	11	11	11
50	49	BN	12.8	11	11	11	50	49	BN	12.8	11	11	11
51	50	BO	12.8	11	11	11	51	50	BO	12.8	11	11	11
52	51	BP	12.8	11	11	11	52	51	BP	12.8	11	11	11
53	52	BQ	12.8	11	11	11	53	52	BQ	12.8	11	11	11
54	53	BR	12.8	11	11	11	54	53	BR	12.8	11	11	11
55	54	BS	12.8	11	11	11	55	54	BS	12.8	11	11	11
56	55	BT	12.8	11	11	11	56	55	BT	12.8	11	11	11
57	56	BV	12.8	11	11	11	57	56	BV	12.8	11	11	11
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86	85	CY	12.8	11	11	11	86	85	CY	12.8	11	11	11
87	86	CZ	12.8	11	11	11	87	86	CZ	12.8	11	11	11
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1999

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AT&T Forges Japanese Deal as Profit Rises

NEW YORK — AT&T Corp. reported Tuesday that its first-quarter profit rose 39 percent, excluding one-time charges, exceeding Wall Street forecasts as revenue from cellular-phone, corporate-phone and other services more than offset a further decline in its flagship long-distance business.

AT&T also announced a partnership with Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp., the dominant Japanese telephone company, to manage communications networks for multinational companies.

AT&T's profit of \$1.72 billion, or 61 cents a share, reflected the company's acquisition of the cable-television company Tele-Communications Inc., which was completed March 9. In the year-earlier quarter, AT&T made \$1.24 billion, or 46 cents a share.

AT&T's revenue rose 9.9 percent, to \$14.10 billion from \$12.83 billion. Including one-time items, its net income

fell to \$1.1 billion, compared with \$1.3 billion a year earlier. Analysts surveyed by First Call had expected AT&T to earn 57 cents a share in the three months that ended March 31.

The company was buoyed by big revenue increases. AT&T said sales from its cellular-phone service grew 40 percent, its telecommunications-management business grew 69 percent, and its corporate phone services grew 7.5 percent.

The increases in revenue more than offset a 3.4 percent drop in sales from the company's consumer long-distance services. AT&T's biggest business has suffered from a long-term decline amid competition from numerous rivals.

The one-time charges excluded in the results Tuesday are tied to AT&T's purchase of Tele-Communications and other deals. AT&T also benefited from lower costs resulting from a reduction of 18,000 jobs last year and lower network connection costs.

The results come after a spree of acquisitions and other deals led by the chairman of AT&T, Michael Armstrong, as he reshapes the largest U.S. long-distance company into a diversified telecommunications conglomerate.

NTT and AT&T said they had reached a basic agreement on the alliance and would continue negotiating its details, including cooperation in Japan and the rest of Asia. Mr. Armstrong said via a satellite link that the collaboration with NTT showed AT&T's dedication to meeting customer need for managed services in Japan and around the world.

The alliance gives NTT, whose focus has been on its domestic market, access to IBM's global communications network, which AT&T agreed in December to buy for \$5 billion by late June.

The alliance represents NTT's first major deal with a foreign company since a change in Japanese law permitted NTT to offer its services globally.

The two companies will also see whether they can expand joint operations to the rest of Asia to provide comprehensive services for designing, deploying and managing corporate data-communications networks.

The move is AT&T's second major step in a week to expand its international business with the help of a Japanese partner. The company said this week that it would join British Telecommunications PLC in buying a combined 30 percent stake in Japan Telecom Co., a long-distance and international carrier.

In addition, AT&T offered \$58 billion last week to buy MediaOne, the fourth-largest U.S. cable-television operator, to try to thwart the merger accord reached last month between MediaOne and the No. 3 cable company, Comcast.

Last month, AT&T agreed to merge its Canadian operations with MetroNet Communications Corp. of Canada.

(AP, AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters)



Junichiro Miyazu, left, the president of NTT, shaking hands with the AT&T vice president Scott Perry as the deal was announced Tuesday.

Milestone for Chenault

Black Executive to Head American Express

By Timothy L. O'Brien
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — With the announcement by American Express Co. that Kenneth Chenault would succeed Harvey Golub as chief executive in 2001, a black executive is poised to join the ranks of top U.S. corporate leaders.

If no other black executives secure a chief executive's chair before then, Mr. Chenault will become the second black leader of a Fortune 500 company, after Franklin D. Roosevelt, the head of the mortgage-financing giant Fannie Mae. Mr. Chenault, 47, the company's president and chief operating officer, has a reputation as a savvy marketer and a determined revenue-builder.

The announcement Monday came as no surprise, but the timing was unexpected. Mr. Chenault was designated as Mr. Golub's successor two years ago, but Mr. Golub said at the time that he intended to stay until 2004.

Mr. Golub, 60, said Monday he would cede the chief executive post to Mr. Chenault earlier, in April 2001, to ensure an orderly succession.

Mr. Golub said he would stay on as

chairman for a year after stepping down as chief executive. After that, Mr. Chenault will become chairman.

The decision was praised by black business leaders, including the president of Time Warner Inc., Richard Parsons, a friend of Mr. Chenault's.

"Kenneth is clearly an enormously talented guy who has worked for everything that has come his way," Mr. Parsons said. "These seeds were sown back in the '60s when the Jim Crow laws were dismantled. Some of those flowers are starting to bloom now. It's never enough, but something is better than nothing."

Mr. Chenault joined American Express as strategic planning director in 1981. In his early years, the chief executive, James Robinson, led the company on a series of ill-considered forays into brokerage and investment banking services. Mr. Robinson was replaced by Mr. Golub in 1993. Under him and Mr. Chenault, the company refocused on its core card business. Shares of American Express have soared since December 1992, climbing from about \$22 then to \$138.5625 at the close Tuesday, up \$4.25 for the day.

Kenneth Irvine Chenault
Born June 2, 1951, Mineola, New York.
Education B.A., Bowdoin College, 1973; J.D., Harvard Law School, 1976.
Career Highlights Lawyer, Rogers & Wells, 1977-79; management consultant, Bain & Co., 1979-81; various executive positions, American Express, 1981-1997; president and chief operating officer, American Express, 1997-present.
Family Kathryn, wife; Kenneth Jr., son, 9; Kevin, son, 7.
Hobbies Golfing, swimming, skiing, playing tennis, reading biographies.

Seoul Tries to Dispel Fears On Korea First Bank Sale

By Don Kirk
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — The South Korean government and Newbridge Capital Ltd. attempted Tuesday to dispel speculation that the U.S. company's purchase of debt-ridden Korea First Bank was in danger of collapse.

Newbridge said it might not meet the deadline of Friday for completing the deal but insisted that the agreement would be concluded. For its part, the government, which owns 94 percent of Korea First Bank, reiterated its staunch commitment to the transaction.

The success of the deal is crucial to reinforcing the perception that South Korea is willing to permit foreign ownership of some major companies after years of vigorous resistance.

Some analysts say the government will even compromise on sticking points for fear that losing the Newbridge investment would undermine other efforts at luring foreign capital, regarded as essential to economic recovery.

But bankers said the deal no longer ranked as the unique prospect it was when it was proposed Dec. 31. At the time,

Time Warner Wraps Up Pathfinder

Pioneering but Unwieldy Web Site to Be Replaced by Updated 'Hubs'

By Alex Kuczynski
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Time Warner Inc. will shut down Pathfinder, its pioneering outpost in cyberspace — a move that symbolizes a passage from the early experimental era of the World Wide Web to a mature publishing platform.

During the last five years, the company's Time Inc. unit has lumped together all of its magazines, including Time, Fortune, Money and Entertainment Weekly, in Pathfinder, a single, massive Web site.

The site will be phased out over the next six months, to be replaced by so-called hub sites that combine related magazines, features and links with the Web sites of other Time Warner properties like CNN, CNNi and other information and entertainment properties.

Each new hub will go after a more precisely targeted audience. The magazines will retain their individual home pages.

Jeffrey Coomes, vice president of marketing at Time Inc. New Media, said the decision to dismantle Pathfinder was based on the fact that most consumers go directly to the individual magazine sites and skip the Pathfinder home page.

He said the move was part of a long-term strategy already in place. "Now we're working on promoting individual brands, like Time.com and Fortune.com, and their features and functions," Mr. Coomes said.

But the move, first reported Monday on CNET's News.com Web site, comes late, industry analysts said. Lisa Allen, a senior analyst at Forrester Research, a market research firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts, said that Pathfinder's demise was about two years overdue.

"It's about time," Ms. Allen said.

"The success of a site like Pathfinder is about creating a specific on-line en-

TIME WARRNER is promising to replace Pathfinder with 'parallel, complementary Web sites' that will provide new ways to talk to our consumers.

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Republic National Bank of New York
Strength. Security. Service.

CURRENCY RATES									
April 27									
Cross Rates									
	\$	£	¥	CS	DM	Sc	Sw	DK	Nor
London (a)	1.6163	2.2636	194.94	2.291	11.28	49.935	13.5044		
New York (b)	1.6185	2.2677	121.325	1.4807	7.0003	304.97	8.3792		
Tokyo	119.45	192.46	79.13	80.83	17.06	N.Q.	14.27		
Toronto	1.4793	2.395	0.9813	1.229	0.2123	0.4839	0.1775		
Zurich	1.5085	2.4378		1.2546	1.0198	21.6042	0.4926	0.1804	
One euro	1.063	0.6587	1.6647	1.2234	1.5744	7.4346	32.570	8.903	
One SDR	1.3536	0.8368	2.0443	1.6479	2.002	9.4726	41.6324	11.343	
Other Dollar Values									
	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$
Argentine peso	0.0095	Hong Kong	236.04	N. Zealand	1.5282	Sw. krona	42.33		
Australian \$	1.5411	Indian rupee	42.80	Malaysian	2.7915	S. African rand	4.0625		
Brazilian real	1.72	Indo. rupiah	960.00	Pakistani	30.55	S. Korean won	118.26		
Canadian peso	0.67	Israeli sheq.	4.0069	Phil. peso	30.01	Taiwan \$	22.48		
Chinese yuan	8.2768	Korean dollar	0.3049	Polish zloty	4.00	Thai baht	37.70		
Czech koruna	25.53	Leban. pound	150.00	Romanian leu	24.53	Turkish liras	367.00		
Danish krone	2.46	Malay. ringg.	3.594	Saudi riyal	3.75	UAE dirham	3.67		
French franc	6.5595	Hong Kong	7.2495	Singapore \$	1.4995	Sw. krona	42.33		
German mark	1.9363								
European Cross Rates									
	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$
British pound	0.6587	French franc	6.5595	Italian lira	2036.27	Netherlands guilder	2.2037	Portuguese escudo	200.48
Belgian franc	6.5595	German mark	1.9363	Spanish peseta	166.38	Swiss franc	1.4548	Turkish liras	367.00
Dutch guilder	2.2037	Irish pound	0.787564						
French franc	6.5595	Italian lira	2036.27						
German mark	1.9363	Netherlands guilder	2.2037						
Irish pound	0.787564	Portuguese escudo	200.48						
Italian lira	2036.27	Spanish peseta	166.38						
Netherlands guilder	2.2037								
Portuguese escudo	200.48								
Spanish peseta	166.38								
Swiss franc	1.4548								
Turkish liras	367.00								

	2-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
Real	2.76	2.76	4.70	4.574
100	2.76	3.180	3.980	3.980
20	2.666	3.064	3.854	3.854
25	2.75	3.280	4.706	4.706
25	0.14	0.095	1.415	1.415
60	2.667	2.855	4.077	4.077
100	5.10	10.30	30.36	30.36
100	5.10	5.22	5.54	5.54
100	96.15	96.16	95.23	95.23

Strategies	4-year	5-year	10-year	15-year	20-year	25-year	30-year	35-year	40-year	45-year	50-year	55-year	60-year	65-year	70-year	75-year	80-year	85-year	90-year	95-year	100-year
Real rate	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Real money	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
1-month interest rate	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
3-month interest rate	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
6-month interest rate	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%

Source: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi.

Libor Rates

	1-month	3-month	6-month	12-month
Dollar	4.90071	4.9957	5.08	5.2075
Yen	2.8714	2.8875	2.8863	2.8748
Mark	5.35	5.3375	5.35	5.35
Swiss	6.1225	6.1125	6.1181	6.2025
U.S. Franc	5.95	1.01	1.0653	1.187

Source: Reuters.

Forward Rates

	30-day	60-day	90-day
Canadian Sterling	1.1212	1.1216	1.1212
Forward Dollar	1.4821	1.4824	1.4828
Forward Euro	1.1605	1.1605	1.1604
Forward yen	117.23	118.54	118.42
Forward Swiss	1.1625	1.1625	1.1625
Forward U.S. Franc	1.1625	1.1625	1.1625

Source: Associated Press.

Tuesday's 4 P.M.
100 most traded National Market securities
in \$100,000 of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

[illegible]

Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close
The 150 most traded stocks of the day,
up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press

[illegible]

Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37	2037-38	2038-39	2039-40	2040-41	2041-42	2042-43	2043-44	2044-45	2045-46	2046-47	2047-48	2048-49	2049-50	2050-51	2051-52	2052-53	2053-54	2054-55	2055-56	2056-57	2057-58	2058-59	2059-60	2060-61	2061-62	2062-63	2063-64	2064-65	2065-66	2066-67	2067-68	2068-69	2069-70	2070-71	2071-72	2072-73	2073-74	2074-75	2075-76	2076-77	2077-78	2078-79	2079-80	2080-81	2081-82	2082-83	2083-84	2084-85	2085-86	2086-87	2087-88	2088-89	2089-90	2090-91	2091-92	2092-93	2093-94	2094-95	2095-96	2096-97	2097-98	2098-99	2099-00	2100-01	2101-02	2102-03	2103-04	2104-05	2105-06	2106-07	2107-08	2108-09	2109-10	2110-11	2111-12	2112-13	2113-14	2114-15	2115-16	2116-17	2117-18	2118-19	2119-20	2120-21	2121-22	2122-23	2123-24	2124-25	2125-26	2126-27	2127-28	2128-29	2129-30	2130-31	2131-32	2132-33	2133-34	2134-35	2135-36	2136-37	2137-38	2138-39	2139-40	2140-41	2141-42	2142-43	2143-44	2144-45	2145-46	2146-47	2147-48	2148-49	2149-50	2150-51	2151-52	2152-53	2153-54	2154-55	2155-56	2156-57	2157-58	2158-59	2159-60	2160-61	2161-62	2162-63	2163-64	2164-65	2165-66	2166-67	2167-68	2168-69	2169-70	2170-71	2171-72	2172-73	2173-74	2174-75	2175-76	2176-77	2177-78	2178-79	2179-80	2180-81	2181-82	2182-83	2183-84	2184-85	2185-86	2186-87	2187-88	2188-89	2189-90	2190-91	2191-92	2192-93	2193-94	2194-95	2195-96	2196-97	2197-98	2198-99	2199-00	2200-01	2201-02	2202-03	2203-04	2204-05	2205-06	2206-07	2207-08	2208-09	2209-10	2210-11	2211-12	2212-13	2213-14	2214-15	2215-16	2216-17	2217-18	2218-19	2219-20	2220-21	2221-22	2222-23	2223-24	2224-25	2225-26	2226-27	2227-28	2228-29	2229-30	2230-31	2231-32	2232-33	2233-34	2234-35	2235-36	2236-37	2237-38	2238-39	2239-40	2240-41	2241-42	2242-43	2243-44	2244-45	2245-46	2246-47	2247-48	2248-49	2249-50	2250-51	2251-52	2252-53	2253-54	2254-55	2255-56	2256-57	2257-58	2258-59	2259-60	2260-61	2261-62	2262-63	2263-64	2264-65	2265-66	2266-67	2267-68	2268-69	2269-70	2270-71	2271-72	2272-73	2273-74	2274-75	2275-76	2276-77	2277-78	2278-79	2279-80	2280-81	2281-82	2282-83	2283-84	2284-85	2285-86	2286-87	2287-88	2288-89	2289-90	2290-91	2291-92	2292-93	2293-94	2294-95	2295-96	2296-97	2297-98	2298-99	2299-00	2300-01	2301-02	2302-03	2303-04	2304-05	2305-06	2306-07	2307-08	2308-09	2309-10	2310-11	2311-12	2312-13	2313-14	2314-15	2315-16	2316-17	2317-18	2318-19	2319-20	2320-21	2321-22	2322-23	2323-24	2324-25	2325-26	2326-27	2327-28	2328-29	2329-30	2330-31	2331-32	2332-33	2333-34	2334-35	2335-36	2336-37	2337-38	2338-39	2339-40	2340-41	2341-42	2342-43	2343-44	2344-45	2345-46	2346-47	2347-48	2348-49	2349-50	2350-51	2351-52	2352-53	2353-54	2354-55	2355-56	2356-57	2357-58	2358-59	2359-60	2360-61	2361-62	2362-63	2363-64	2364-65	2365-66	2366-67	2367-68	2368-69	2369-70	2370-71	2371-72	2372-73	2373-74	2374-75	2375-76	2376-77	2377-78	2378-79	2379-80	2380-81	2381-82	2382-83	2383-84	2384-85	2385-86	2386-87	2387-88	2388-89	2389-90	2390-91	2391-92	2392-93	2393-94	2394-95	2395-96	2396-97	2397-98	2398-99	2399-00	2400-01	2401-02	2402-03	2403-04	2404-05	2405-06	2406-07	2407-08	2408-09	2409-10	2410-11	2411-12	2412-13	2413-14	2414-15	2415-16	2416-17	2417-18	2418-19	2419-20	2420-21	2421-22	2422-23	2423-24	2424-25	2425-26	2426-27	2427-28	2428-29	2429-30	2430-31	2431-32	2432-33	2433-34	2434-35	2435-36	2436-37	2437-38	2438-39	2439-40	2440-41	2441-42	2442-43	2443-44	2444-45	2445-46	2446-47	2447-48	2448-49	2449-50	2450-51	2451-52	2452-53	2453-54	2454-55	2455-56	2456-57	2457-58	2458-59	2459-60	2460-61	2461-62	2462-63	2463-64	2464-65	2465-66	2466-67	2467-68	2468-69	2469-70	2470-71	2471-72	2472-73	2473-74	2474-75	2475-76	2476-77	2477-78	2478-79	2479-80	2480-81	2481-82	2482-83	2483-84	2484-85	2485-86	2486-87	2487-88	2488-89	2489-90	2490-91	2491-92	2492-93	2493-94	2494-95	2495-96	2496-97	2497-98	2498-99	2499-00	2500-01	2501-02	2502-03	2503-04	2504-05	2505-06	2506-07	2507-08	2508-09	2509-10	2510-11	2511-12	2512-13	2513-14	2514-15	2515-16	2516-17	2517-18	2518-19	2519-20	2520-21	2521-22	2522-23	2523-24	2524-25	2525-26	2526-27	2527-28	2528-29	2529-30	2530-31	2531-32	2532-33	2533-34	2534-35	2535-36	2536-37	2537-38	2538-39	2539-40	2540-41	2541-42	2542-43	2543-44	2544-45	2545-46	2546-47	2547-48	2548-49	2549-50	2550-51	2551-52	2552-53	2553-54	2554-55	2555-56	2556-57	2557-58	2558-59	2559-60	2560-61	2561-62	2562-63	2563-64	2564-65	2565-66	2566-67	2567-68	2568-69	2569-70	2570-71	2571-72	2572-73	2573-74	2574-75	2575-76	2576-77	2577-78	2578-79	2579-80	2580-81	2581-82	2582-83	2583-84	2584-85	2585-86	2586-87	2587-88	2588-89	2589-90	2590-91	2591-92	2592-93	2593-94	2594-95	2595-96	2596-97	2597-98	2598-99	2599-00	2600-01	2601-02	2602-03	2603-04	2604-05	2605-06	2606-07	2607-08	2608-09	2609-10	2610-11	2611-12	2612-13	2613-14	2614-15	2615-16	2616-17	2617-18	2618-19	2619-20	2620-21	2621-22	2622-23	2623-24	2624-25	2625-26	2626-27	2627-28	2628-29	2629-30	2630-31	2631-32	2632-33	2633-34	2634-35	2635-36	2636-37	2637-38	2638-39	2639-40	2640-41	2641-42	2642-43	2643-44	2644-45	2645-46	2646-47	2647-48	2648-49	2649-50	2650-51	2651-52	2652-53	2653-54	2654-55	2655-56	2656-57	2657-58	2658-59	2659-60	2660-61	2661-62	2662-63	2663-64	2664-65	2665-66	2666-67	2667-68	2668-69	2669-70	2670-71	2671-72	2672-73	2673-74	2674-75	2675-76	2676-77	2677-78	2678-79	2679-80	2680-81	2681-82	2682-83	2683-84	2684-85	2685-86	2686-87	2687-88	2688-89	2689-90	2690-91	2691-92	2692-93	2693-94	2694-95	2695-96	2696-97	2697-98	2698-99	2699-00	2700-01	2701-02	2702-03	2703-04	2704-05	2705-06	2706-07	2707-08	2708-09	2709-10	2710-11	2711-12	2712-13	2713-14	2714-15	2715-16	2716-17	2717-18	2718-19	2719-20	2720-21	2721-22	2722-23	2723-24	2724-25	2725-26	2726-27	2727-28	2728-29	2729-30	2730-31	2731-32	2732-33	2733-34	2734-35	2735-36	2736-37	2737-38	2738-39	2739-40	2740-41	2741-42	2742-43	2743-44	2744-45	2745-46	2746-47	2747-48	2748-49	2749-50	2750-51	2751-52	2752-53	2753-54	2754-55	2755-56	2756-57	2757-58	2758-59	2759-60	2760-61	2761-62	2762-63	2763-64	2764-65	2765-66	2766-67	2767-68	2768-69	2769-70	2770-71	2771-72	2772-73	2773-74	2774-75	2775-76	2776-77	2777-78	2778-79	2779-80	2780-81	2781-82	2782-83	2783-84	2784-85	2785-86	2786-87	2787-88	2788-89	2789-90	2790-91	2791-92	2792-93	2793-94	2794-95	2795-96	2796-97	2797-98	2798-99	2799-00	2800-01	2801-02	2802-03	2803-04	2804-05	2805-06	2806-07	2807-08	2808-09	2809-10	2810-11	2811-12	2812-13	2813-14	2814-15	2815-16	2816-17	2817-18	2818-19	2819-20	2820-21	2821-22	2822-23	2823-24	2824-25	2825-26	2826-27	2827-28	2828-29	2829-30	2830-31	2831-32	2832-33	2833-34	2834-35	2835-36	2836-37	2837-38	2838-39	2839-40	2840-41	2841-42	2842-43	2843-44	2844-45	2845-46	2846-47	2847-48	2848-49	2849-50	2850-51	2851-52	2852-53	2853-54	2854-55	2855-56	2856-57	2857-58	2858-59	2859-60	2860-61	2861-62	2862-63	2863-64	2864-65	2865-66	2866-67	2867-68	2868-69	2869-70	2870-71	2871-72	2872-73	2873-74	2874-75	2875-76	2876-77	2877-78	2878-79	2879-80	2880-81	2881-82	2882-83	2883-84	2884-85	2885-86	2886-87	2887-88	2888-89	2889-90	2890-91	2891-92	2892-93	2893-94	2894-95	2895-96	2896-97	2897-98	2898-99	2899-00	2900-01	2901-02	2902-03	2903-04	2904-05	2905-06	2906-07	2907-08	2908-09	2909-10	2910-11	2911-12	2912-13	2913-14	2914-15	2915-16	2916-17	2917-18	2918-19	2919-20	2920-21	2921-22	2922-23	2923-24	2924-25	2925-26	2926-27	2927-28	2928-29	2929-30	2930-31	2931-32	2932-33	2933-34	2934-35	2935-36	2936-37	2937-38	2938-39	2939-40	2940-41	2941-42	2942-43	2943-44	2944-45	2945-46	2946-47	2947-48	2948-49	2949-50	2950-51	2951-52	2952-53	2953-54	2954-55	2955-56	2956-57	2957-58	2958-59	2959-60	2960-61	2961-62	2962-63	2963-64	2964-65	2965-66	2966-67	2967-68	2968-69	2969-70	2970-71	2971-72	2972-73	2973-74	2974-75	2975-76	2976-77	2977-78	2978-79	2979-80	2980-81	2981-82	2982-83	2983-84	2984-85	2985-86	2986-87	2987-88	2988-89	2989-90	2990-91	2991-92	2992-93	2993-94	2994-95	2995-96	2996-97	2997-98	2998-99	2999-00	3000-01	3001-02	3002-03	3003-04	3004-05	3005-0
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ASIA/PACIFIC

Investor's Asia				
Exchange	Index	Tuesday Close	Monday Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	13,364.75	13,127.02	+1.81
Singapore	Strait Times	1,675.38	1,668.82	+0.39
Sydney	All Ordinaries	3,495.20	3,428.70	+1.96
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	16,957.27	16,918.51	+0.23
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	670.02	673.85	-0.57
Bangkok	SET	425.35	418.89	+1.56
Seoul	Composite Index	793.98	778.30	+2.02
Taipei	Stock Market Index	7,550.78	7,628.08	-1.02
Manila	PSE	2,428.85	2,385.47	+1.82
Jakarta	Composite Index	469.28	470.41	-0.24
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,271.07	2,255.04	+0.71
Bombay	Sensitive Index	Closed	5,245.27	

Very briefly:

- Sanwa Bank Ltd. predicted it would post a 470 billion yen (\$3.9 billion) group net loss for the year to March 31, while Yasuda Trust & Banking Co. said it would post a 400 billion yen loss. The banks are struggling with a loan portfolio soured by Japan's weak economy.
- Japan's automobile exports in the year to March fell 3.3 percent, to 4.5 million units, dragged down by the economic slump across Southeast Asia, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said.
- Pohang Iron & Steel Co., the world's largest steelmaker, will raise export prices to China and Southeast Asia as the region's inventories run dry.
- Japanese retail sales fell 4.3 percent in March from a year ago, marking a record 24th consecutive month of declines, the government said.
- Alwa Co.'s profit fell nearly 60 percent in the year to March 31, to 3.5 billion yen, as the strong yen dented the value of the audio equipment maker's export earnings. Sales fell 4.4 percent, to 349.6 billion yen.
- Telekom Malaysia Bhd., the country's largest phone company, signed a deal with Microsoft Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Co. to help it launch a new Internet business, which it hopes will broaden its customer base.
- Dai-ichi Hotel Ltd., a Japanese hotel operator, will close the 801-room Dai-ichi Ginza Hotel in the upscale Ginza section of Tokyo at the end of April 2002 after the lease on the building expires.
- Australia's fishing industry will triple in the next decade as oyster, salmon and prawn farms help plug the gap between diminishing wild fish stocks and increased demand.
- P&O Australia Ltd. is likely to pay between \$150 million and \$200 million for a 49 percent stake in a joint venture with PT Pelindo, which will operate Indonesia's second-largest container port in Surabaya.

Stocks Soar In Seoul on Step Toward Labor Peace

SEOUL — Easing labor tensions drove stock prices to a 32-month high Tuesday as investors concluded that a drop in worker disruptions would allow companies to continue their restructuring efforts.

The benchmark KOSPI index rose 17.68 points, or 2.3 percent, to 793.98, its highest since Sept. 12, 1996, after Seoul subway workers ended their eight-day strike. The index has risen 28 percent this month, the world's third-best performance.

An easing of labor resistance is expected to help keep South Korea on a slow, steady path toward economic improvement.

"While many see the labor problem as the 'hot issue,' this year, the real story is that economic fundamentals are improving," said Hwang Sang Taek, a fund manager at IMM Asset Management Co. in Seoul, which invests \$120 million in Korean stocks. Mr. Hwang forecast the index would rise to 1,200 by the end of the year.

Labor leaders, however, vowed to continue their fight even as thousands of Seoul subway workers returned to work after the government threatened to fire them if they stayed off the job.

The end of the subway workers' strike was another setback to union attempts to block government reform efforts that entail job cuts. It followed the collapse of a planned



Lee Kap Yong, a leader of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, left, on his phone during a rally in Seoul on Tuesday.

strike by Korea Telecom Co.'s union, which has 43,000 members.

"We really weren't prepared this time," said Yoon Young Mo, international secretary of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, which represents the telephone workers.

"It's a continuing process of educating workers, an empowering process. One action can lead to another."

The confederation is leading a campaign of rallies and wildcat strikes to try to stop mass layoffs stemming from the restructuring of South Korea's bloated and highly leveraged major corporations.

The subway strike was the opening salvo in the labor confederation's plan.

The metal workers' union, meanwhile, vowed to push onward with the battle against layoffs. Thousands of union workers at several units of Daewoo Group, including Daewoo Motor Co., said they would hold rolling strikes starting Wednesday to protest the management's plans.

"It would be a great mistake" if the government thinks the confederation's fight is over, Lee Kap Yong of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions said.

"The Seoul subway strike was a success," he said, "and workers returned to work because of the inconvenience to the public. It did not end in a failure as the government is making it out to be."

(Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters)

Tokyo Plans a Big Cut in Bureaucracy

TOKYO — The Japanese government approved a plan Tuesday to reduce its bureaucracy by one-quarter, cutting more than 250,000 positions in the next 10 years, by not hiring any new workers.

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's cabinet also plans to almost halve the number of ministries and agencies by January 2001, to 13 from 22 now. The cabinet of senior ministers will be reduced to 14 ministers from 18. Still, an extra three ministers can be appointed if necessary.

In a bid to trim its 1.12-million-strong bureaucracy, the government will stop hiring new graduates, and workers who retire will not be replaced.

The proposals come amid public criticism that the government — which has spent 120 trillion yen (\$1 trillion) since 1992 in attempts to pull the economy out of its worst recession in 50 years — must streamline its structure and cut costs, just as private companies have been prompted to do.

Under the plan, the Ministry of

Finance will be renamed the Ministry of Treasury. It will retain the authority to oversee major financial problems while sharing the supervision of the financial industry with the Financial Supervisory Agency.

Opposition parties want the ministry to be stripped of its power to supervise the financial industry, saying that it already holds too much power. The ministry also allocates the national budget, collects taxes, supervises currency policy and conducts other international financial policies.

Economists Cautious About Thai Recovery

BANGKOK — Despite upbeat signals from Thailand's financial markets, the country that was the first to be hit by the Asian crisis will not be the first to recover, economists say. The Thai economy is only just bottoming out and a turnaround may still be a long way off.

The worst recession in more than 60 years has severely damaged Thailand's financial community. The crisis has left Thai conglomerates debt-ridden and begging for foreign capital and pushed millions of ordinary Thais below the poverty line.

"You can never say the market is wrong — no one knows," said Supavud Saichuea, executive vice president and strategist at Merrill Lynch Pheasant Securities. "But I would be among those who think the market has been too optimistic."

Thailand has started to rebuild after the financial meltdown that followed the collapse of its currency in 1997. The government is redrafting business laws to help speed corporate restructuring. Most big Thai banks have announced recapitalization plans, and a few macroeconomic indicators have shown some improvement in recent months.

Thailand's stock and debt markets have improved sharply in recent months, reflecting Asia's improving outlook. Bangkok's benchmark SET composite index closed Tuesday at 415.68, its highest level of the year and double the low of 207.31 set Sept. 4, 1998. Spreads for Thailand's benchmark international bond have tightened to just 190 basis points over equivalent U.S. Treasuries, compared with almost 1,000 six months ago. The baht has stabilized, with the dollar now worth 37.5 baht after feinting as much as 56.9 baht in early 1998.

The upswing has been bolstered by credit-rating agencies. Fitch IBCA put Thailand, along with South Korea, on "rating alert positive" Monday, recognizing that "Thailand's long-term credit fundamentals are beginning to reassert themselves."

But analysts and Thai business leaders emphasize that the improvement scenario in Thailand must be regarded as long term.

The market is pricing in a bank-
ing system that has recapitalized, that

will aggressively restructure loans, making corporates stronger and banks more profitable," Supavud Saichuea said. "It is pricing something three years down the road."

Most economists say Thailand may begin to show some positive economic growth toward the end of 1999, after contractions of 1.3 percent in 1997 and 8 percent in 1998. But gross domestic product may only stabilize at the very low levels reached last year, analysts say.

A \$3.5 billion government economic stimulus package adopted April 1 may go some way toward encouraging domestic spending, but with at least 7 percent of the Thai work force unemployed and up to a third of the rural population living in poverty, it will be a long time before consumption recovers.

Massive industrial overcapacity from Thailand's boom years in the 1980s and early 1990s means there is little scope for an increase in private investment to stimulate the economy.

Thailand's private investment index stood at just 7.2 in January, down 23 percent year-on-year, on a scale that assumes 100 is "normal" industrial and commercial investment.

Suengchai Ekkapattaporn, a senior member of the board of the Federation of Thai Industries, contends that recovery will begin in the middle of this year but says it may have to be driven by export industries as the rest of Asia recovers.

"I don't think there will be an improvement in investment for some time," he said.

No one doubts that Thailand will recover eventually, but some economists say the country may see a much flatter trough than expected and that investors looking for recovering economies should be careful to differentiate among Asian countries.

"It all depends on your timetable," said Sriyan Piersers, head of research at SG Asia Credit in Bangkok.

Regarding Thailand, he said, "My money would be on a 'U'-shaped, flatter bottomed recovery than a 'V'-shape we are seeing elsewhere in Asia, because I don't think we have the kind of power in investment needed to power a very sharp recovery."

Slow Sales in Japan Hit Sony Music's Profit

TOKYO — Sony Music Entertainment Inc. said Tuesday its group net profit fell 12 percent, as the company's first-ever loss from its music business offset increased contributions from its PlayStation video game affiliate.

Sony Music, a subsidiary of Sony Corp., said group net profit in the year that ended March 31 fell to 31.9 billion yen (\$267.7 million) from 36.3 billion the previous year. It was the first profit decline in five years. Sales were flat at 226.7 billion yen.

Sony Music and Sony Corp. jointly own Sony Computer Entertainment Inc., which makes the popular PlayStation

console. Sony sold 21.6 million PlayStation last year, but it predicted sales would drop to 17 million this year.

"We see sales growth of PlayStation having peaked in the year just ended in Japan, but sales are still rising in Europe," the executive vice president of Sony Music, Kazutoshi Shiraishi, told a news conference.

Sony plans to introduce a new PlayStation model late this year in Japan. Japan's largest record company posted the first parent-level operating loss since it was founded in 1968 after it failed to come up with an encore to the 1998 hit soundtrack to the movie, "Titanic."

The slump offset a 16-percent increase

in group contributions from Sony Computer Entertainment.

"Basically all of the profit is from Sony Computer," said Motoharu Sone, an analyst at Universal Securities Research Co. "Sony Music isn't making any money on its record business."

Flac sales were largely attributed to a paucity of hits by Sony Music's domestic artists. The company's roster of Japanese talent accounted for only 4 of the 28 albums that sold more than a million copies in Japan in 1998.

International sales rose, led by Mariah Carey, whose album, "The Ones," was its biggest hit.

The impact on profit was exacerbated by an increase in marketing-related expenditures that resulted from Sony Music's decision last year to adopt a strategy calling for more use of outside producers and greater focus on promoting new artists.

Some analysts said those investments were more important than the business slump this year.

"The fact that the company has re-oriented its strategy in a positive direction is more significant than this year's off performance," said Hiroyuki Shimada, an analyst at Credit Lyonnais Securities Inc.

Sony Corp., which already holds 71 percent of Sony Music's shares, will acquire the remaining 29 percent in a stock swap planned for January 1.

Sony Corp. shares closed Tuesday at 11,560 yen, up 130. (Bloomberg, AFP)

Hitachi and TI Set a TV Venture

TOKYO — Hitachi Ltd. and Texas Instruments Inc. said Tuesday they had agreed to the joint development of an all-digital, large-screen, high-definition, rear-projection television.

Hitachi will use Texas Instruments' digital light-processing technology to develop high-definition televisions for home use, the companies said.

Hitachi plans to market the televisions in Japan and the United States in the second half of 2000, they said.

The two companies will collaborate on technology development, includ-

ing high-definition television signal reception and an image-processing LSI chip, for large-scale integration.

"We're excited that DLP technology will deliver the first-ever all-digital display to the home-entertainment market," said Bob England, senior vice president and manager of Texas Instruments' digital imaging division.

Satellite digital broadcasting is to begin in Japan next year. Texas Instruments supplies digital light-processing subsystems to more than 25 projector makers.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Flourishing, in Florida?
- Turn red, in a way
- Pitcher's asset
- Economize on the wedding
- Breakfast fruit
- Common middle name
- Start of a quip
- Gobbled (up)
- Supper scrap
- Scotch
- Get a bead on
- Part 2 of the quip
- Says "When?"

DOWN

- Toaster waffle
- Perry-punching
- Missing G.I.
- KLM announcement
- Part 3 of the quip
- Swearer's letter
- Part of a parachute
- Holiday song
- Spanish name
- Dark beer
- Part 4 of the quip
- Ho hello
- Abolisher
- Pinlempis follower
- Nonexistent
- End of the quip

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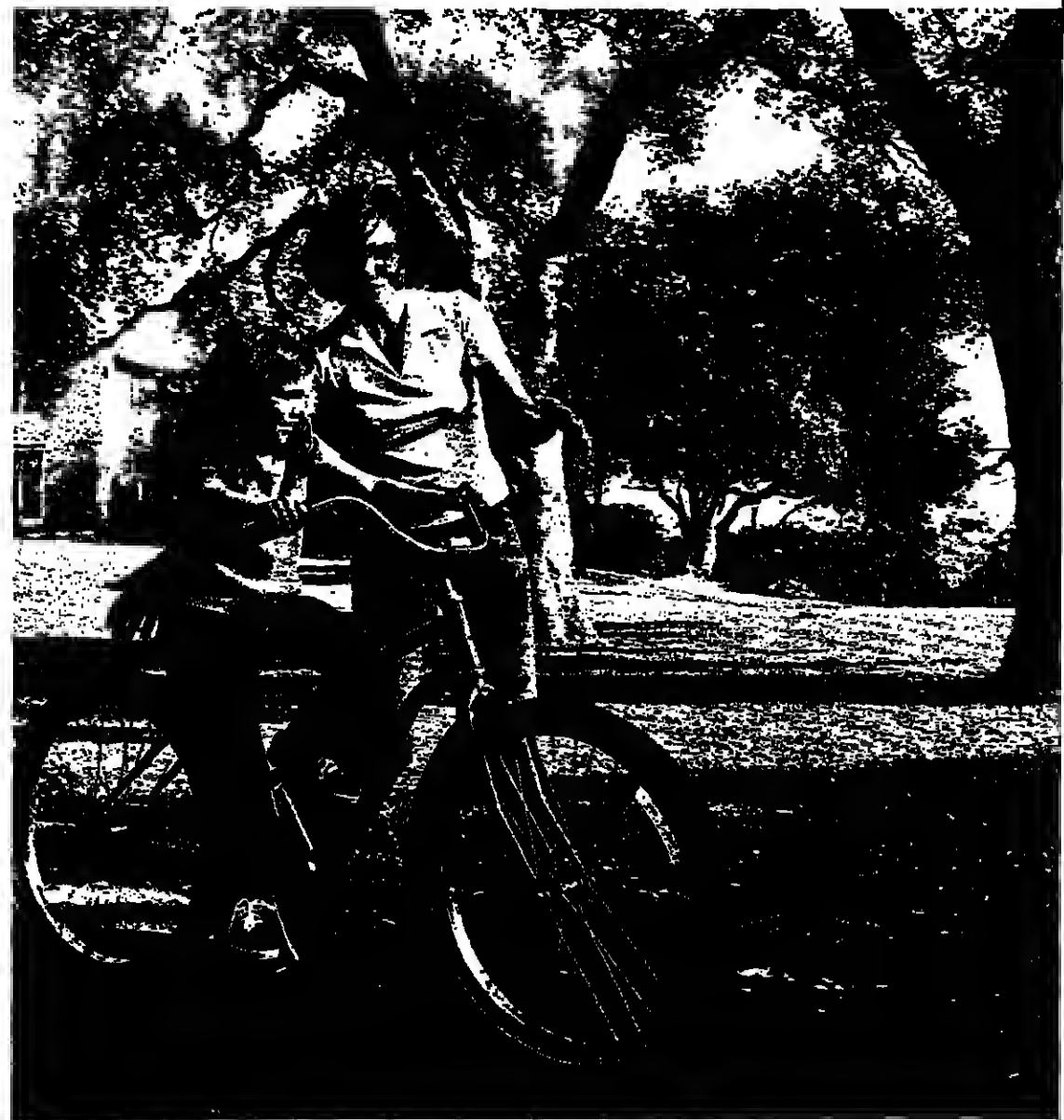
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- Where Minors ruled
- Violet
- Bill of legend
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- "Whole Shalom" Goin' On
- Pursuers of 33-Across
- Rise inducers
- Spreads, as cream cheese
- One of the Four H's
- Ki and caboodle
- Milk deliverer's call
- Get caught up
- Sage site of 1836
- Mark down, perhaps
- Chances upon
- Raise a stink

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- Groom's vow
- Give a buzz
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- Awestruck
- Ten tube before?
- Agreeable reply
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- Fathead's —
- gloss
- Frequent title starter
- Oceanic abbr.
- In seventh heaven
- Canine from Kansas
- Sand headlong
- Squid's squirts
- Hair color
- Skin's complement
- Designer Cassini
- Meets on wheels server?
- Christmas decorations
- "It's —" (74 thriller)
- Renter's sign
- German sub
- Red leader
- Collars of a sort
- Decimal preceder?
- TV adjustment: Abbr.
- 65, e.g.: Abbr.
- Site for three men in a tub?

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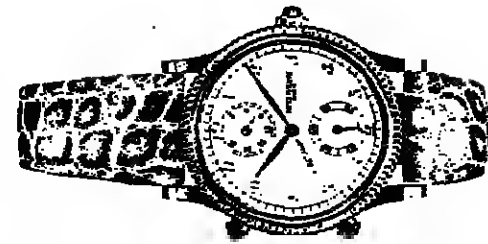
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Shareholders Unite on Net After Company Goes Under

By Diana B. Henriques
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — It's a long way from cyberspace to Wilmington, Delaware. On an electronic message board on the Internet, shareholders of United Companies Financial Corp. have been engaged for weeks in an emotional, often heated, debate over how to save the faltering company, a high-risk lender in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that filed for bankruptcy protection on March 1.

Unfortunately for them, the company's fate is actually being decided in the real world of U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Wilmington, where a committee of powerful creditors — banks and bondholders, mostly — is trying to retrieve the \$1.3 billion the company owes them.

However, outspoken they may be in virtual reality, shareholders typically stand at the end of the line in bankruptcy court. By law the company's first obligation is to satisfy the valid claims of its creditors. Frequently, stockholders can do little but watch as their shares are canceled and new stock is distributed to settle the company's debt.

But the Internet may be about to change that balance of power.

At least that is the hope of the group of United Companies shareholders who have banded together in cyberspace to seek a voice in the real-world negotiations in Delaware, where many companies are incorporated because of its light regulatory touch and efficient courts that enforce a well-established body of corporate law.

Their effort, being hailed by some as a first in shareholder activism, could set the stage for a mammoth collision of cultures, said Michael Venditto of Kensington & Ressler, a New York law firm that does both bankruptcy work and Internet company financings.

"Bankruptcy doesn't proceed at the pace of cyberspace — just the opposite," Mr. Venditto said. While the Internet celebrates instant information, the slow bankruptcy process is deliberately designed to give a struggling company breathing space to plan and meet with creditors. "The two arenas are entirely incompatible," he said.

Martin Stoller, a professor of rhetoric at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and a

leader of the message-board activists, acknowledged that bankruptcy court was alien territory for him. But he argued that the Internet's lightning pace was exactly what allowed small shareholders to find one another quickly and seek out the expertise they needed.

"We are the electronic manifestation of Beo Franklin's famous line that we must all hang together or we will surely all hang separately," said the professor, who owns just under 60,000 shares of United Companies stock.

United Companies, a fixture in Baton Rouge, was a major player in the once-exuberant "subprime" loan market, lending money at high rates to borrowers who could not get more affordable loans elsewhere and then selling packages of those loans to Wall Street investors hungry to earn high yields.

But the company's own cost of borrowing skyrocketed after Russia defaulted on its debt last summer, which prompted investors to flee the riskier corners of the credit market. By March, its cash-flow problems were so severe that it filed for reorganization under Chapter 11, reporting assets of about \$1.3 billion and liabilities of \$1.25 billion. Now, its liabilities have risen to roughly \$1.3 billion, while the realizable value of the company's assets has probably shrunk.

The company's increasingly visible problems have demolished the price of its stock, some of which was owned by its employees through an employee stock ownership plan. Shares that fetched as much as \$76 apiece in 1993 can now be had for less than 25 cents, wiping out many employees' retirement savings and igniting a firestorm of anger and suspicion among shareholders and employees alike.

That hostility flooded into a Yahoo! message board:

<http://messages.yahoo.com/>
?action=qb&board=UC

There, investors and employees have met to trade angry opinions, alarming rumors and minute dissections of the latest news. But in the weeks since the bankruptcy filing, the message-board participants have done something far less common: Guided by Mr. Stoller, they have formed what he calls an "ad hoc alliance" and persuaded a bankruptcy lawyer, Michael Warner



Mr. Stoller is leading the group of cyber-activists trying to recover their investments.

of Fort Worth, Texas, to represent the group — free, at least for now.

Last week, Mr. Warner formally asked the Office of the U.S. Trustee in Philadelphia, which oversees the Delaware bankruptcy process, to give the shareholders a voice in the negotiations. He asked the trustee to approve the formation of an equity committee, which would be entitled to legal representation and could apply to the court to recover its legal fees from the debtor.

In his petition, Mr. Warner noted that he represented the holders of 2.1 million of the company's 28 million outstanding shares — or about 20 percent of the 10.4 million shares that are not owned by insiders. According to Mr. Stoller, more than a hundred people from the message board have enlisted in the alliance. Mr. Warner said he did not expect a decision until next week at the earliest.

Value Rises From Its Slumber

But Newfound Popularity Should Raise Warning Flags

By Allan Sloan
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — Even though the stock market game is played by some of the most arrogant people on earth, the market itself is a great place to learn humility. That's because just about the time that nearly everyone agrees about something, it almost always turns out to be wrong.

Consider the stock market's big ups and downs lately, especially last week. No, I'm not talking about the way technology stocks cratered, then came roaring back. Rather, I'm talking about "value" investing.

Less than a month ago, value investing — buying beaten-down stocks that are selling cheaply relative to their profits and asset values — was said to be dead, killed off by the New Economy and its ever-more-pricey technology stocks. But just as market gurus were reading the eulogy over value's grave, it popped out of the ground, caught up to the broad market, and is alive and well. At least for now.

Value investing, like pornography, is one of those things that are difficult to define, but you know it when you see it. The theory behind value investing is that the way to make money in the stock market is to buy stocks that are out of favor and cheap, then wait for them to come into favor.

Growth investing is the yang to value's yin. Growth, in its purest form, holds that you can't go wrong buying stocks of rapidly growing companies, no matter how high their prices relative to profits and asset values.

The stocks that have been out of favor and therefore cheap lately are those boring old-line industrial companies, the so-called cyclical such as food companies, chemical makers and heavy manufacturers. The glamorous growth companies, of course, have been the high-techies.

In practice, though, the line separating growth from value stocks is a little arbitrary. For instance, the Standard & Poor's Barra growth stock index includes slow-growers such as Campbell Soup Co., Hershey Foods Corp. and Times Mirror Co., and the value index includes 3Com Corp., Advanced Micro Devices Inc. and Apple Computer Inc.

But, statistical quirks notwithstanding, growth has been trouncing value in recent years. Last

year, the growth index produced a 42 percent return, including capital gains and reinvested dividends — almost 30 points better than the value index, the greatest difference ever. Growth trounced value in the first quarter, too, 6.9 to 2.6.

So by the beginning of April, the reputation of value investing had started to look as beaten down as the stocks that value investors favor. Billions of dollars fled value investing funds such as Mutual Series and Vanguard Windsor. Windsor, which closed to new investors in 1989 and used to be one of the most-coveted funds on the

WALL STREET WATCH

planet, had an especially awful year, earning all of 0.8 percent in capital gains and reinvested dividends, 28 points less than Vanguard's S&P 500 Stock Index fund, which mimics the S&P rather than trying to beat it.

On March 25, in a major public slap at Charles Freeman, the manager of the Windsor fund, Vanguard announced that effective June 1 it would turn over some of Windsor's stock portfolio to another firm. The amount wasn't announced, but it's 25 percent. So what happens? Since March 24, the day before the announcement, Windsor's return for the year has moved from 1.6 points below the S&P to 4.1 ahead as of Friday, a move matched by many other value funds.

Mr. Freeman says he hasn't been gloating, but he's sure he's feeling a lot better.

Another big reversal this year has been the Dow industrials versus the S&P 500. For 1997-98, the S&P was 19 points ahead. But this year, the Dow has thrashed the S&P: it is up 16.4 percent compared with the S&P's 10.4 percent. The major difference: Technology stocks are weighted far more heavily in the S&P.

It's far too early to say whether the value stocks' rebound is permanent or what market types call a dead cat bounce. Tech stock prices have been enormously volatile lately, both because the future is somewhat unclear, and because tech stock prices are so high, relative to profits, that there's little room for error, real or imagined.

So when will tech and Internet stocks finally take their long-awaited tumble? If history — and value investing's trajectory — offer any guide, it will probably happen the day after the last skeptic throws in the towel.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Hodgson Returns
As 4th Inter Coach

SOCCER Inter Milan on Tuesday signed Roy Hodgson, an English coach, to direct the team for its last four matches.

Hodgson became the fourth Inter coach this season.

The club said Hodgson would keep the helm only through the end of the campaign. Inter already has signed Marcello Lippi, former coach of Juventus, for next season.

Hodgson coached Inter in 1996-97. He takes over from Luciano Castellini, a longtime No. 2 at Inter, who directed the team for three matches, drawing one and losing two. The last, a 3-1 home loss to Udinese, touched off a violent protest by fans. Ronaldo, the team's injury-troubled striker, was targeted by angry fans outside the San Siro stadium Sunday. He said fans threw a stone and a bottle at his car and at a car carrying relatives.

Ronaldo remains the highest-paid player in the world, according to a survey by France Football magazine. The Brazilian will earn about 55 million francs (\$8.7 million) this season from all sources, according to the magazine. David Beckham, a Manchester United midfielder, is second with \$4.7 million, just ahead of Zinedine Zidane, with \$4.6 million. (AP, Reuters)

Early Exit for Kafelnikov

TENNIS Yevgeni Kafelnikov, who will become the top-ranked player in the world next week, lost to Richard Fromberg in the first round of the Czech Open on Tuesday.

Fromberg beat the Australian Open champion and the top-seeded Russian 6-4, 2-6, 6-4. But Kafelnikov will still take the No. 1 spot from Pete Sampras, who is resting this week because of injury. By being unable to defend his title in Atlanta, Sampras loses 172 ranking points. Kafelnikov has lost six straight first-round matches.

Boris Becker, the sentimental favorite playing his last tournament in the city of his residence, lost to Wayne Ferreira in the opening round of the BMW Open in Munich.

The fifth-seeded South African rallied on the slow red clay Tuesday to win 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Gustavo Kuerten, the third-seeded Brazilian coming off a victory in Monte Carlo, crashed out against Vincenzo Santopadre 6-3, 6-2.

Top-seeded Karol Kucera pulled out of the event because of inflamed tendons on his right hand. (AP)

Moon Signs With Chiefs

FOOTBALL Warren Moon, a 42-year-old quarterback who started 10 games for Seattle last season, signed a two-year contract with the Kansas City Chiefs. (AP)

Yugoslav Team Banned

TABLE TENNIS Yugoslavia has been banned from all European table tennis competitions next season because of the crisis in Kosovo, the sport's European governing body said Tuesday. (AFP)

Sound of Dutch Guns
Echoes Across Soccer

In Violent World, Sport Responsible for Fans

By Rob Hughes
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — When police guns fire on soccer fans in the heart of Europe, the sport is in serious trouble. If nothing can be done after the "celebrations" in Rotterdam that ended last Sunday with four revelers hospitalized with bullet wounds, this could become terminal trouble to the game and the hysteria it generates.

We must beware of knee-jerk conclusions. What began as a salute by 240,000 to Feyenoord's capturing the Dutch league title ended in the streets of this tough industrial port. As in

Chicago a few years back when the Bulls won the National Basketball Association title and the joy was used by criminals to loot, riot and overturn cars, Rotterdam became a public battlefield.

The police, the Dutch soccer authorities, and UEFA, the governing body of European soccer, agree that this conflagration was not, strictly, a sporting affair. Indeed, it was decidedly unsporting, and it took place outside the stadium.

That will not spare soccer if, after the wounded bodies are healed and the smashed windows replaced, sport is deemed the catalyst to a threat to life, limb and property. There are bound to be some, even in Europe's most liberal society, who will want to shut down the game to eliminate nights like this.

Sport is a legitimate expression of freedom, a release for pent-up emotions and aggression. But controls against the cancer of violence are imperative. The Rotterdam mayhem comes at a bad time. On May 12, the UEFA Cup final between Marseille and Parma is scheduled for Moscow, where a bomb blasted a hotel on Monday. On May 26, 30,000 supporters of Manchester United and 30,000 followers of Bayern Munich will congregate in Barcelona for the Champions Cup final. Little more than a year from now, Rotterdam will be one of the host cities for Euro 2000 — a tournament which will be shared between the Netherlands and Belgium but will import fanatics from a multitude of nations.

All these venues must be on alert. The authorities must exhaust every method of policing these intense affairs short of shooting the crowd.

"Our officers were cornered," said Ger de Jongh, a Rotterdam police spokesman. "A small group of policemen was suddenly attacked by between 75 to 150 hooligans. They were in a street with thousands of other people, but there was no way to escape. They followed the procedure laid down when police feel their lives are in danger."

Last year, Feyenoord and Ajax supporters met by arrangement for a fight that killed one of their number.

And it must scare everyone who intends to be involved in Euro 2000 where, up to now, the concerns were mainly about whether Belgium could match the stadiums and the organization of its richer soccer neighbors.

Bram Peper, the former mayor of Rotterdam, called for a law to allow police to

seize hooligan suspects and jail or remove them before next year's event starts.

"I've never seen anything so terrible," Peper says, "when police are put under siege, and forced to take out arms it turns the world upside down." Like the cars in the old port, indeed.

But is the world not a frightening place even without soccer? In Denver, school children are shot because of their color or their sporting prowess. In the Caribbean, cricket matches are the flashpoint to riots. In France, petrol-bomb hurling teenagers run amok. In central London, a television presenter is shot dead outside her home.

The task is to separate sport from the wider endemic violence while making sure it does not relapse into the contagion of hooliganism. That disease, spreading from England, once threatened the whole habit of people letting the heightened emotions of a game carry them out of themselves.

Soccer does this better than anything. It is a pastime that lifts the soul. It transcends the staidness of working life. It holds — just — the line between acceptable tribalism and nationalism, and the ethnic hatred that has led to warfare in modern Europe.

For those reasons, and for the rather more simple one that sport is poetry in motion, the games must go on. Even the game that is about to cost Barcelona, host to millions at the 1992 Olympic Games, whatever it takes to put 1,400 police and stewards on duty to stand between the English and the Germans on May 26.

Manchester United's marvelous achievement in Turin last week makes it the first English team to reach the European Cup final since Liverpool played Juventus at Hays Stadium in Brussels in 1985. On that night, 39 spectators, mainly Juventus supporters, died.

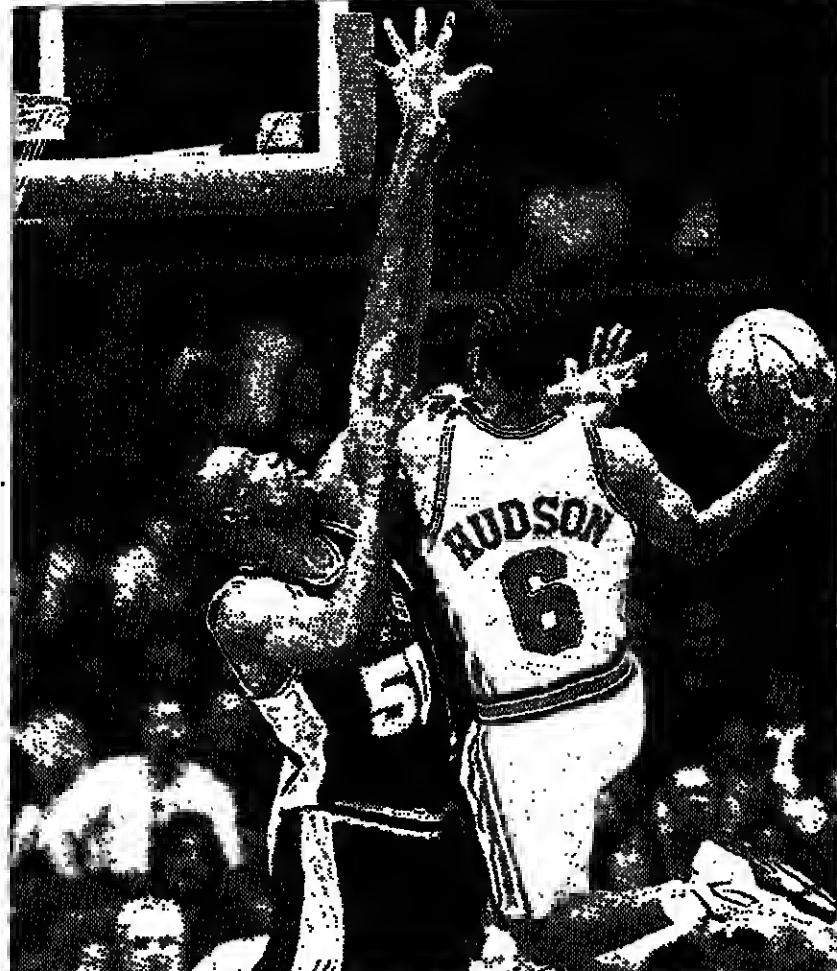
It is the first major soccer contest abroad between English and German sides since the 1990 World Cup in Italy. The German hooligans left their calling cards in Milan by systematically breaking windows around the Duomo.

At the last World Cup, English thugs ran riot in Marseille, and German thugs beat a policeman comatose in Lens.

Now that fate, and the stirring efforts of United and Bayern, have brought the nations together again, Barcelona must not be allowed to become a battleground. Many flights from Manchester and Munich will be diverted to regional airports, at Girona and Reus. The stadium will be strictly segregated. The hotels will overflow because a motor show as well as a Formula One Grand Prix are to be held the same week as the Champions Cup final.

Barcelona has as an "antiviolence committee," in itself a sign of the times. The committee will not limit alcohol sales because, said its vice president Ignacio Ayuso, "The fans are just normal people, not delinquents." Bravo, senior. Let us pray they prove your point. Barcelona is better suited to fiesta than fear.

Rob Hughes is chief sports writer of The Times of London.



The Clippers' Troy Hudson shooting as the Spurs' David Robinson defended.

They're Hot on Jazz's Trail

Blazers and Spurs Gain Ground for No. 1 Seeding

The Associated Press

Portland and San Antonio both won to gain ground on the Utah Jazz in the race for the No. 1 seeding in the National Basketball Association playoffs.

Only 1½ games separate the Jazz (34-11), the Trail Blazers (33-11) and the Spurs (32-12) after Utah lost at home to Phoenix on Monday night.

Trail Blazers 93, Nuggets 77 Portland never trailed during Denver as the Trail

excited because Utah lost," said Avery Johnson, the Spurs guard after his team won in Los Angeles. "Hopefully by this weekend we'll be vying for the best record in the NBA."

San Antonio nearly blew a 33-point lead before it won its seventh in a row. Tim Duncan scored four of his 22 points in the final 2:29 after all but one point of the big lead had disappeared.

Hant 90, Cavaliers 65 Pat Riley moved into a second-place tie with Bill Fitch for career NBA coaching victories (944) as Miami cruised past the injured and over-matched Cavaliers at Cleveland.

"Let's face the facts," Riley said. "We played an incredibly depleted team. They didn't have Shawn Kemp. They didn't have Brevin Knight. They are banged up. We should have won this game and not thump ourselves on the chest because that team is simply undermanned."

Warriors 114, Kings 89 John Starks had a season-high 25 points and Antawn Jamison matched his season-high with 23 as Golden State beat Sacramento in Oakland, California.

Chris Webber sat out with lower back spasms and Sacramento fell into a tie for seventh place in the Western Conference with Minnesota. Seattle is a half-game behind the Kings and Timberwolves.

Knicks 91, Hornets 84 Latrell Sprewell scored 21 points and Marcus Camby added seven blocks for New York, which beat Charlotte to move 1½ games ahead of the Hornets for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Rockets 102, Lakers 80 Scottie Pippen had 26 points and six steals as Houston beat visiting Los Angeles.

The Lakers lost their third straight game to fall 1½ games behind Houston in the race for fourth place in the conference.

Bucks 99, Wizards 91 Milwaukee got 31 points from Glenn Robinson — including eight during a late 15-0 run as it beat visiting Washington.

Mavericks 101, Bulls 93 Michael Finley scored 28 points, including eight during a decisive 18-2 fourth-quarter run as the Mavericks beat Chicago in Dallas.

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Braves Clip
Marlins, 5-3,
For Payoff
Of Long Trip

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The Atlanta Braves got plenty of mileage out of the second-longest trip in franchise history.

Atlanta went 8-3 on a four-city, 15-day coast-to-coast expedition and happily headed home Monday night after beating the Florida Marlins, 5-3.

"It was a great road trip," manager Bobby Cox said. "We played well in

almost every game."

The trip to Philadelphia, Denver, Los Angeles and Miami included a snowout, a rainout and two off days. The only longer Atlanta trip was during the 1996 Olympics.

On Monday, the Braves scored twice in the ninth when Walt Weiss hit a tie-breaking run-scoring single and Andrew Jones stole home on a botched rundown.

The Braves broke a 3-3 tie in the ninth. Javy Lopez singled to lead off and advanced on a sacrifice. Jones was walked intentionally, and Lopez scored when Weiss's grounder glanced off the glove of a diving Derek Lee at first base.

Atlanta then added another run. With runners at first and third, pitcher Rudy Seanez missed the ball when he attempted squeeze-bunt, leaving Jones stranded off third. But Kevin Orie, the third baseman, made a bad throw and Jones scored on the bungled rundown.

Seanez pitched 1½ innings to complete the five-hitter. Kevin Millwood allowed four hits in 7½ innings and left with a 3-2 lead.

Astros 5, Diamondbacks 2 Jose Lima won his third straight start, and Jeff Bagwell and Richard Hidalgo drove in two runs each as Houston beat visiting Arizona.

Lima allowed both runs and seven hits in eight innings, retiring 11 of 13 in one stretch.

In American League games: Angels 4, Blue Jays 3 Back in the lineup for a home game for the first time since opening night, Mo Vaughn went 2-for-3 and drove in two runs as the Angels beat the Blue Jays in Anaheim on Darin Erstad's 11th-inning homer.

Vaughn sprained an ankle on opening day. Erstad homered leading off the bottom of the 11th, sending Toronto to its fourth consecutive loss following an eight-game winning streak.

Shannon Stewart went 4-for-5 for the Blue Jays and Anthony Saunders went 2-for-4 with a two-run double in his major league debut.

Twins 6, Red Sox 2 Torii Hunter hit a grand slam, drove in a career-high five runs and made two key defensive plays in center field as Minnesota stopped a five-game losing streak by beating visiting Boston.

Hunter made a home-run-saving catch and a strong throw to the plate in the sixth.

His grand slam in the fourth-inning was the 12th in the major leagues this season.

Indians 5, Athletics 4 Roberto Alomar doubled with two outs in the 10th inning and scored on a single by Manny Ramirez, as Cleveland won in Oakland. It was the Indians sixth come-from-behind victory this season.

Tigers 7, Mariners 0 Juan Encarnacion and Karim Garcia homered as Detroit won in Seattle. Detroit tied a season high with 15 hits, with Encarnacion and Dean Palmer each going 3-for-5.

NFL Will Miss One of the Good Guys

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — As quarterback for the Denver Broncos for the past 16 years, John Elway has lost two miles and maybe three city blocks during football games, or 3,780 yards. This is a National Football League record for going backward.

He has had more people pounce on him more frequently than any other quarterback in NFL history, having been sacked 516 times. Another record. No one wearing the livery of an NFL team has ever had to rise — head inside his helmet ringing like a Halloween skeleton in the wind — and wobble to the huddle to try again, as much as he has.

Then there were the notorious Super Bowls. His first was in 1987, when the Broncos lost to the Giants. His second was in 1988, when the Broncos lost to Washington. His third was in 1990, when the Broncos lost to San Francisco.

He may have been excused for thinking at times, "I should have stayed with baseball." He was the Yankees' first draft choice in June 1981. He played one year in the Yankee minor league system, after his junior year at Stanford, and surely learned valuable pro lessons about disappointment and redemption.

John Elway, who will be 39 on June 28, has announced that he will officially retire Sunday. It would have come already but for the high school tragedy in the Denver suburb of Littleton. He believed rightly and sensitively that his announcement might draw attention at an inappropriate time.

Looking back, not only did Elway return to games in which he was repeatedly knocked down, physically and otherwise, but he also became the winningest quarterback in history, with a record of 148 victories, 82 losses and 1 tie, a .643 winning percentage, just ahead of the Dolphins' Dan Marino in victories and percentage.

"I may not always play my best," he said after the third Super Bowl, and looking for some light at the end of the tunnel, "but I always play my hardest.

Vantage Point/IRA BERKOW

I'm competing all the way until the scoreboard clock reads zero-zero-zero.

He returned for a fourth time to the Super Bowl, in 1998, and won it, at the tender age of 37, risking limb and limb, to scramble and dive for a crucial first down late in the 31-24 victory over highly favored Green Bay.

The Broncos' owner, Pat Bowlen, was so moved by Elway's professionalism, resilience and, well, doggie, that when handed the 1998 Super Bowl trophy after the game, he said, "This one's for John."

"You wonder if you're going to run out of years," Elway said. "But fortunately I hung on."

Elway came back to lead Denver to a second straight Super Bowl championship over Atlanta in January. If a sports figure can legitimately be viewed as a model of something positive — an increasingly difficult stance in today's sports world — John Elway is a prime candidate. Elway has become a living symbol of refusing to be defeated by defeat. As a pro, it began in baseball.

Elway was an outstanding outfielder and hitter for Stanford, and had, not surprisingly, a bazooka for an arm. In the summer of 1982, after his junior year in college, he signed with the Yankees for a \$140,000 bonus. He would return that fall to again play football at Stanford. But at Oneonta, New York, the 6-foot-3-inch, 205-pound (191 meter, 93 kilogram) all-American quarterback wondered early on what he had got into, a kind of harbinger for his football career.

For the first week and a half he had just 1 hit in his first 22 at-bats. "And the fans were on him — some of it was pretty vicious," Suzanne Nader, then the team general manager, said, "and the paper here, The Daily Star, each day had 'Where's Our Golden Boy?' story."

The Golden Boy showed up. He

played an excellent right field, throwing runners out with the accuracy of his touchdown tosses. And he wound up batting a promising .318 in 42 games, with 4 homers and 25 runs batted in.

The question after his senior year was: Would it be baseball or football? "It's a thrill to throw a touchdown pass," he said, "but there's nothing like hitting a home run." He was the No. 1 pick in the 1983 NFL draft, and decided on football. Perhaps that was where his heart was, and his dad's — Jack Elway was head football coach at San Jose State.

"We hated to lose John," George Steinbrenner recalled this week.

"He was a good ballplayer and a good citizen. While he didn't have all the tools of a Derek Jeter, he had the right ethics and the right understanding, and he would have made himself a star in baseball."

Did he believe Elway made the right decision. "Are you kidding?" Steinbrenner asked. Yes.



John Elway has become a symbol of the athlete who never gives up.

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SPORTS

Colorado Beats San Jose in Overtime

Toronto's Victory Over Philadelphia Marred by Accusation of Racial Slur



The Avalanche's Greg de Vries upsetting the Sharks' center, Ron Sutter, behind the Colorado goal in the first period. The rookie right wing Milan Hejduk scored the winning goal 7:53 into overtime.

The Associated Press
SAN JOSE, California—Milan Hejduk, a rookie right wing, scored 7:53 into overtime to give the Colorado Avalanche a 2-1 victory over the San Jose Sharks. With the result, Colorado took a 2-0 series lead to Denver for the next three games.

Hejduk, who had 14 goals and 34 assists in the regular season, took a pass from Joe Sakic, the Colorado captain, and fought off the Sharks' left wing Jeff Friesen in front of the crease to beat Mike Vernon, the Sharks' goalkeeper, and end the game Monday night.

Afterward, the Colorado team engulfed the smiling rookie along the boards, while Vernon hit a goalpost angrily with his stick. "I don't think I'm a hero," the young Czech said. "I'm just a normal hockey player."

"It was great for us to win two in a row, and now we're on our way back to Denver," Hejduk said. "It's the best situation."

Vincent Damphousse, traded to the Sharks from Montreal on

March 23, sent the puck past Patrick Roy 3:02 into the third period to give San Jose the lead.

The Avalanche tied the game late in the third period on a goal

NHL PLAYOFFS

by Adam Foote that slipped underneath Vernon as he fell to the ice amid a tangle of players in front of the net.

Roy, who stopped 23 shots, now has 101 playoff victories, an on-going NHL record.

Vernon, who faced 16 Colorado shots in the third period alone, had 34 saves.

"It's really tough to win when the other team gets so many chances," Damphousse said. "One or two are bound to go in. I think we should have crashed Roy more than we did; he was still making key saves."

The Sharks had a great chance midway through the second period, when Marco Sturm caught Roy out of goal. Sturm had a seemingly wide-open shot from in front of the crease, but Roy

dived toward the goal and stopped the puck with his stick. Maple Leafs' defenseman Steve Larmer scored the Flyers' only goal.

Hurricanes 3, Bruins 2 A disputed three-period goal gave Carolina a 3-1 lead in the series.

Andrei Kovalenko's skate was in the crease when the puck past Byron Dafoe 2:54 into the period. The visitors then held on for their second straight 3-2 victory.

With the score tied at 2-2, Roben Kron passed the puck from behind the goal line to Dufao's left. The puck appeared to precede Kovalenko into the crease and ricochet off Dufao.

Officials reviewed the play on video as the Bruins' coach, Pat Burns, yelled at them. But he changed his tune after seeing the video replay.

"The puck was in the crease before he went in," Burns said of Kovalenko. "I bounced off Byron's glove hand and went in the net, and that's a break I wish we could get, but you have to make your breaks."

the second period. Mike Johnson also scored for the Leafs, and Karl Dykhuizen scored the Flyers' only goal.

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EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
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New York	12	5	.706	—
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Toronto	12	6	.692	1 1/2
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Boston	10	9	.526	3
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Tampa Bay	11	9	.550	2 1/2
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Baltimore	4	14	.222	8 1/2
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	W	L	Pct.	GB
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Cleveland	13	5	.722	—
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Chicago	9	7	.563	3
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Oakland	9	10	.474	4 1/2
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Minnesota	8	12	.400	6
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Kansas City	6	10	.375	8
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Seattle	8	11	.421	3
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Atlanta	12	6	.667	—
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New York	11	8	.579	1 1/2
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Philadelphia	10	8	.556	2 1/2
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Montreal	6	11	.353	5 1/2
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Florida	5	14	.263	7 1/2
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St. Louis	11	6	.647	—
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Houston	10	8	.556	1 1/2
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Arizona	9	9	.500	2 1/2
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Pittsburgh	8	9	.471	3
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Chicago	7	9	.438	3 1/2
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Cincinnati	7	9	.438	3 1/2
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San Francisco	13	7	.652	—
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Los Angeles	9	10	.474	3 1/2
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San Diego	8	10	.444	4
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Colorado	6	9	.400	4 1/2
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	W	L	Pct.	GB
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Boston	100	800	.000	18 1/2
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Minnesota	100	800	.000	19 1/2
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NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

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Atlanta	12	5	.706	—
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Philadelphia	11	7	.611	1 1/2
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St. Louis	10	8	.556	2 1/2
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San Francisco	9	9	.500	3 1/2
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Los Angeles	8	10	.444	4
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San Diego	7	10	.412	4 1/2
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San Francisco	13	7	.652	—
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Minnesota	100	800	.000	19 1/2
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	W	L	Pct.	GB
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Boston	100	800	.000	18 1/2
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Minnesota	100	800	.000	19 1/2
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NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
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Atlanta	12	5	.706	—
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Philadelphia	11	7	.611	1 1/2
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St. Louis	10	8	.556	2 1/2
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San Francisco	9	9	.500	3 1/2
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Los Angeles	8	10	.444	4
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San Diego	7	10	.412	4 1/2
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	W	L	Pct.	GB
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San Francisco	13	7	.652	—
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Los Angeles	9	10	.474	3 1/2
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San Diego	8	10	.444	4
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Colorado	6	9	.400	4 1/2
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	W	L	Pct.	GB
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Boston	100	800	.000	18 1/2
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Minnesota	100	800	.000	19 1/2
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	W	L	Pct.	GB
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Boston	100	800	.000	18 1/2
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POSTCARD

The Bard, by the Book

By Walter Goodman
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Now is the spring of content for friends of the Bard here. They can look forward to "The Taming of the Shrew" this summer in Central Park. Before that, comes a movie of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and, later this year, Julie Taymor's film version of the rarely performed "Titus Andronicus."

But it is a fair guess that at least one eminent Bardolator, Harold Bloom, is reining in his expectations for these latest attempts at casting a fresh light on the canon. His book "Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human" leaves no doubt of his irritation with most of the interpretations he has encountered in a lifetime of worshipping the plays. For him, the more daring the attempt, the more excruciating the experience.

Here and there in his 741 pages, Bloom dredges up a kind word about a legendary turn by an actor whom he has never seen — Kean or Irving as Shylock — or a production that he saw long ago: most memorably for him, the Henry plays with Ralph Richardson as Falstaff and, incidentally, Laurence Olivier alternating between Hotspur and Shallow. Bloom reports that Richardson's performance, seen at the age of 16, gave him his "first understanding of Shakespeare."

But praise is rare. Bloom does not make life easy for directors and actors who perform to come up with novel interpretations of a much-performed repertory.

Mostly, in the Bloomian view, directors and actors are doing very badly, out of sheer incompetence or under the influence of the hour's ide-

logues, be they feminists or Marxists or multiculturalists. And yet, as Bloom does not fail to note, the Shakespearean canon was made to be acted well before scholars got their hands on it. Along with playing the Ghost in "Hamlet," Shakespeare left us, through the exceedingly intelligent Dane, the pithiest and most enduring stage direction in history: "Suit the action to the word, the word to the action."

Granted, that tag does not settle much, but it does suggest the differing starting places for Bloom and the interpreters he cannot abide, like "the gender and power covens" who have tampered with his cherished heroine, Rosalind, and succeeded in making "nearly every production of 'As You Like It' a libel on 'the most remarkable and persuasive representation of a woman in all Western literature.'"

That sort of failure, he maintains, is symptomatic of "the authentic decline of our cognitive and literate culture," under the assault by movies, television and computers. If, as he laments, as great a work as "King Lear" defies "a Shakespearean staging of Shakespeare," then the society is plainly losing its literary tradition and probably its bearings.

So here's the situation: Where the Bardolator dedicates himself to defending the text against the barbarians, the directors have the challenge of finding audience-engaging ways that reflect the times and perhaps the marketplace.

The clash is inevitable and irreconcilable. Who is to rule the Shakespearean kingdom? Season after season, it is not only careers that are in opposition but entire world views.

New Conductor in Paris Takes on Many Roles

By David Stevens
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The business of marrying a symphony orchestra with the right music director has never been an easy one, and it is getting harder all the time as the ranks of first-class orchestras grow and the supply of presumably worthy conductors shrinks — or at least does not grow fast enough.

The age of the conductor-dictator is surely a thing of the past. No more Toscanini and the NBC. No more Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic. The times now seem to favor the conductor as colleague, a kind of first among equals, although heaven knows a symphony orchestra is no democracy.

Enter Christoph Eschenbach, who has just been named music director of the Orchestre de Paris for an initial three-year term beginning in 2000. Depending on how one looks at it, the orchestra dates from 1828, as the successor of the former Concerts du Conservatoire, or from 1967, when it was refounded, with automatic prestige, by the French Cultural Ministry.

The musical founder of the Orchestre de Paris was Charles Münch, the revered conductor who came out of retirement to take on the job, then died a year later during the orchestra's first tour to the United States. He was succeeded first by Herbert von Karajan, then by Sir Georg Solti, but for both men Paris was a second job. Karajan would not give up the Berlin Philharmonic to devote himself to the Paris orchestra, and similarly, Solti made it absolutely clear that the Chicago Symphony was his first love.

Then came 14 years under Daniel Barenboim, a period of mutual reinforcement during which Barenboim built his career as a conductor and the orchestra grew with him. This was followed by a decade under Semyon Bychkov, a solid musician who never acquired the stature the orchestra seemed to need and who irritated a number of the Paris critics. For the last couple of seasons the orchestra has been semi-orphaned, with Christoph von Dohnanyi, the Cleveland Orchestra's director, acting as musical adviser.

By coincidence or design, the announcement of Eschenbach's appointment came as he began a series of concerts with the orchestra, unusual in their mixture of his roles as conductor and performer.

In one concert, he turned pages for the pianist Tzimon Barto in two Brahms cham-



Christoph Eschenbach will be music director of the Orchestre de Paris next year.

ber works, then played the piano for a performance of Schoenberg's Phantasy for violin and piano, with Philippe Aiche, one of the orchestra's concertmasters, as his partner. In another, he accompanied the Israeli violinist Gil Shaham in two Brahms sonatas and conducted an ensemble of the orchestra's musicians in a chamber version of Schoenberg's Five Orchestral Pieces.

Then, with the full orchestra sounding in its best form, he conducted the Brahms Violin Concerto, with Shaham as soloist, and Schoenberg's symphonic poem "Pelleas et Melisande."

"Chamber music is very important for orchestra people," Eschenbach said. "Music for an orchestra is not confined to the usual repertoire. It includes all kinds of music and all kinds of formations, from a 120-piece orchestra to smaller ensembles of 12 or even four."

Eschenbach was born in 1940 in Breslau (now Wrocław in Poland) and endured a traumatic childhood that included the deaths of both parents (his mother in child-

birth, his father at the front). He was rescued from a refugee camp by his godmother, a maternal relative, and most important, a pianist and singer who introduced the child to music.

After musical studies in Hamburg, Eschenbach first came into the public eye with victories on the piano competition circuit, notably a first prize in the Clara Haskil Competition in Lucerne, which opened the way to a career as a pianist. But his eye was on a different target.

"I had always wanted to be a conductor," he recalled. "The usual way is to become third kapellmeister in some opera house and work your way up. Instead, I decided to play the piano and watch the conductors. For seven or eight years I played with both the good and the bad, and learned from both."

He regards Karajan and George Szell, the conductor who raised the Cleveland Orchestra to the top rank, as his two main mentors. "And I followed them whenever I could."

When the time came to get up in front of an orchestra and see what happened, "I pruned

that the basic things worked — the body language, the projection.

Today he cuts an austere but decisive figure on the podium, with a kind of Mao jacket in place of the traditional white tie and tails, in place of the traditional white tie and tails, communicating with the orchestra in clear gestures devoid of superfluous signaling.

In 1978, Eschenbach took over his first orchestra in Ludwigshafen, "where I could build up the orchestra and hire new people" as well as build up a substantial repertory. In 1982, he moved to the Tonhalle Orchestra of Zurich, and from there he jumped the Atlantic in 1988 to become music director of the Houston Symphony, a post he is giving up this year.

"Houston was a very fruitful experience," he said of his 10 years in the Texas metropolis. He reckons that the orchestra, already a good one, is now a world-class ensemble. And he got to conduct an opera a year during the Houston Opera's seasons, with his own orchestra in the pit.

The end of the Texas experience means a kind of recentering in Europe for Eschenbach.

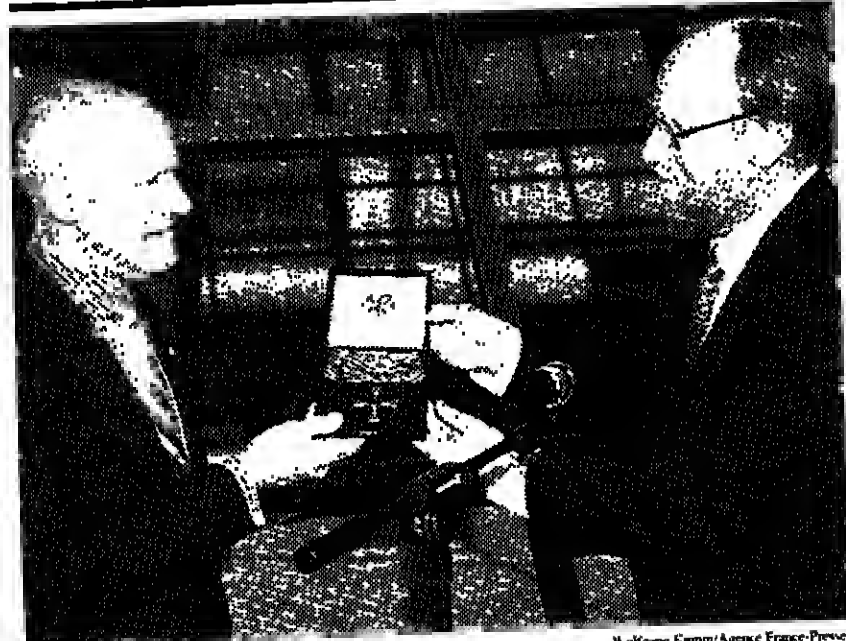
He is already in his first season as music director of the North German Radio Orchestra, with which he recently appeared in Paris in a concert, with Gidon Kremer as the soloist, that blew the dust off Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Besides his commitment to the Orchestre de Paris (a minimum of 12 weeks, 28 concerts), he is also artistic director of the Schleswig-Holstein Festival and since 1995 has been director of the Ravinia Festival, the Chicago Symphony's summer home.

But the "return" to Europe is "not a homecoming," he insists. "I don't like déjà vu."

Eschenbach arrives in Paris in time to play a major role in two events. One is the "Berlioz 2003" project, a multidisciplinary affair with the Orchestre de Paris as the principal musical organization involved, that aims to properly mark Hector Berlioz's 200th birthday.

The other is the almost certain creation of a new home for the orchestra, which has bounced from one hall to another over the years. The Paris music establishment almost unanimously wants a new concert hall, as originally planned, at the Cité de la Musique. The mayor of Paris, Jean Tiberi, wants the disused Gaite-Lyrique theater restored as the orchestra's home. A decision remains to be made.

PEOPLE



STRUCTURING RELATIONSHIPS — Wolfgang Thierse, right, the speaker of the German Parliament, presenting the Order of the Federal Republic of Germany to the British architect Norman Foster, who designed the plans for the rebuilding of the Reichstag in Berlin.

THE tenor Luciano Pavarotti has lost a court battle and must pay 4.6 billion lire (\$2.5 million) in back taxes, Italian news reports said Tuesday. Pavarotti had argued that his official residence is in the tax haven of Monte Carlo. But an appeals court in Rome ruled that Pavarotti spends most of his time in his hometown of Modena, Italy, and must therefore pay the taxes required of a resident. The tenor is one of dozens of Italian celebrities and sports figures under investigation for tax evasion.

The actress Tea Leoni, wife of the actor David Duchovny, has given birth to the couple's first child. The baby, a girl, has not yet been named. Leoni, the star of "The Naked Truth," and Duchovny, of "The X-Files," were married in May 1997.

The millionaire lottery winner Yvonne Wright will quit her job sweeping up popcorn and selling ice cream at a movie theater, so she can live

like a film star. Wright, 21, plans a new lifestyle of fast cars, parties and exotic holidays after winning \$1.5 million (\$2.4 million) in Britain's national lottery, newspapers reported. "I'm going to spend, spend, spend. . . . Now I can live the life of a film star," she was

quoted as saying by the Mirror tabloid.

Sinead O'Connor, who once ripped up a picture of the Pope on television, was ordained in Dublin as the first woman priest in the Latin Tridentine

Sumo Association Cracks Down on Obesity

The Associated Press

TOKYO — For the first time in the history of the ancient sport of sumo, wrestlers will be required to take a test to measure their body fat and will be told to go on a diet if necessary.

Ayako Suzuki of the Japan Sumo Association said Tuesday that the first test would be administered to wrestlers at the end of the 15-day summer tournament that begins May 9. If a wrestler is judged to be carrying more weight than his frame can handle, he will receive an official warning from the association and a recommendation to go on a diet, she said.

The announcement came amid a rash of weight-related injuries and complaints from fans that the sport is now little more than bouts of pushing and shoving in which the heaviest man wins, rather than wrestling based on quickness or technique. Weight is clearly taking its toll on the wrestlers. In the last tournament, the three top-ranked wrestlers all had to withdraw — two with weight-related problems. Many sumo watchers say problems are also caused by a less strenuous training regimen.

Church, a Roman Catholic splinter group, by Bishop Michael Cox, who pioneered a phone-in confession service in Ireland. The singer said she had already celebrated Mass four times but would study with Cox for six weeks before starting her priestly career as Mother Bernadette Mary, a name she also plans to use in her music career. O'Connor said her views have changed since her 1992 appearance on NBC's "Saturday Night Live," when she tore up a picture of Pope John Paul II. "I do apologize for that. I am sorry I did that. It was a disrespectful thing to do," she said.

Donald Sutherland has a bad case of stage fright. "I've made 101 films and I throw up at the beginning of every one," Sutherland said. And now he's rehearsing for a stage appearance in Los Angeles in "Enigma Variations," a psychological thriller. "I haven't been on the stage for 20 years and I'm terrified, but it's not an uninteresting terror," said Sutherland.



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